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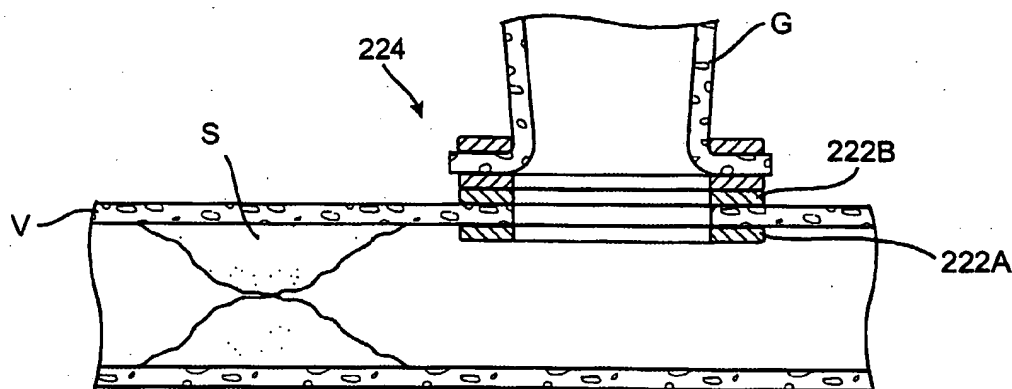
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(54) Title: METHODS AND DEVICES USING MAGNETIC FORCE TO FORM AN ANASTOMOSIS BETWEEN HOLLOW BODIES



(57) Abstract: Methods and devices for forming an anastomosis between hollow bodies utilizes magnetic force to couple anastomotic securing components (10) and create a fluid-tight connection between the lumens of the hollow bodies. End-to-side, side-to-side and end-to-end anastomoses can be created without using suture or any other type of mechanical fasteners, although any such attachment means may be used in conjunction with the magnetic attachment. The securing components (10) have magnetic, ferromagnetic or electromagnetic properties and may include one or more materials, for example, magnetic and nonmagnetic materials arranged in a laminated structure. The system of anastomotic securing components (10) may be used in many different applications including the treatment of cardiovascular disease, peripheral vascular disease, forming AV shunts for dialysis patients, etc., and may be sized and configured for forming an anastomosis to a specific hollow body, for example, a coronary artery or the aorta.

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METHODS AND DEVICES USING MAGNETIC FORCE TO FORM AN ANASTOMOSIS BETWEEN HOLLOW BODIES

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The invention relates to methods and devices for forming an anastomosis between two hollow bodies.

Description of Related Art

Despite the considerable advances that have been realized in cardiology and cardiovascular surgery, heart disease remains the leading cause of death throughout much of the world. Coronary artery disease, or arteriosclerosis, is the single leading cause of death in the United States today. As a result, those in the cardiovascular field continue to search for new treatments and improvements to existing treatments.

Coronary artery disease is currently treated by interventional procedures such as percutaneous transluminal coronary angioplasty (PTCA), coronary stenting and atherectomy, as well as surgical procedures including coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). The goal of these procedures is to reestablish or improve blood flow through occluded (or partially occluded) coronary arteries, and is accomplished, for example, by enlarging the blood flow lumen of the artery or forming a bypass that allows blood to circumvent the occlusion. What procedure(s) is used typically depends on the severity and location of the blockage. When successful, these procedures restore blood flow to myocardial tissue that had not been sufficiently perfused due to the occlusion.

Another proposed treatment places the target vessel, e.g., a coronary artery, in direct fluid communication with a heart chamber containing blood, for example, the left ventricle. Blood flows from the ventricle into a conduit that is in fluid communication with the artery; as such, this treatment may be described as a ventricular bypass procedure. Benefits of this procedure include obviating the need to manipulate the aorta, for example, as is done when a side-biting clamp is used in a typical CABG procedure to create a proximal anastomosis between the bypass graft and the aorta. Clamping or otherwise manipulating the aorta places the patient at risk in some cases due to the likelihood that such manipulation will release embolic

material into the bloodstream. Some challenges associated with this procedure include delivering and deploying the conduit in the patient's body, properly positioning the conduit with respect to the heart chamber and the target vessel, and obtaining beneficial flow characteristics through the conduit and the target vessel.

A particularly challenging task that must be performed during CABG procedures (as well as some ventricular bypass procedures) is suturing the conduit to one or more vessels. As an example, one end of the conduit may be sutured to a source of blood, such as the aorta, a heart chamber or a blood vessel, while the other end of the conduit is sutured to the target vessel, such as a coronary artery or another blood vessel. The small diameter of the vessels involved (typically from 1 mm to 4 mm) makes creating a handsewn anastomosis a highly technical and time-consuming procedure. The difficulty in forming the sutured anastomosis is exacerbated when access to the target vessel is restricted or limited, as in a minimally invasive or percutaneous procedure. This problem also arises in non-cardiovascular applications that utilize handsewn anastomoses, for example, treating peripheral vascular disease or injury, creating AV (arteriovenous) shunts, etc.

While those in the art have proposed various anastomotic couplings intended to replace a sutured anastomosis, none has performed well enough to receive any significant level of acceptance in the field. Many of the proposed couplings penetrate or damage the target vessel wall acutely or chronically, do not remain patent, fail to produce a fluid-tight seal between the conduit and vessel, or are simply too cumbersome and difficult to deliver or deploy.

Accordingly, there is a need in the art for methods and devices for forming a reliable anastomosis between hollow bodies in a relatively quick, easy and repeatable manner as compared to handsewn anastomoses or anastomoses formed by prior art, suture-free devices.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to one embodiment the invention provides a method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies. Each hollow body has a lumen and an opening extending into the lumen. The method is carried out by positioning a first securing component adjacent the opening in the first hollow body, positioning a second securing component adjacent the opening in second hollow body, and using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between the

first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow bodies in communication.

According to another embodiment the invention provides a method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies, each of which has a lumen. The method uses magnetic force to form an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies so as to place their lumens in communication. The first hollow body has proximal and distal portions between which the anastomosis is disposed.

According to another embodiment the invention provides a method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies with lumens and openings extending into the lumens. This method is performed by positioning a first securing component adjacent an opening in the first hollow body, positioning a second securing component adjacent an opening in the second hollow body, and using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow structures in communication. At least one of the securing components is positioned without everting the hollow body.

According to still another embodiment, the invention provides a method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies by positioning a first securing component adjacent the first hollow body, positioning a second securing component adjacent the second hollow body, and using magnetic force to control the relative position of the first and second securing components and form an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies. The blood-carrying lumens of the first and second hollow bodies are placed in communication, with at least one of the first and second securing components at least partially disposed within the blood-carrying lumen of one of the first and second hollow bodies.

According to another embodiment of the invention, a method for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies may or may not use magnetism to facilitate the anastomosis. This method includes steps of positioning a first securing component through an opening in the wall of the first hollow body and at least partially within the lumen of the first hollow body, positioning a second securing component adjacent the second hollow body, applying a coupling force to the first and second securing components without penetrating the wall of the first

hollow body, and forming a seal between the first and second hollow bodies while placing the lumens of the first and second hollow bodies in communication. The coupling force is applied at substantially the same location at which the seal is formed.

According to yet another embodiment the invention provides a system for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies in a patient's body. The system includes first and second securing components capable of producing a magnetic field that applies force to maintain the securing components in a desired relative position. The first securing component has an opening and is substantially plate-shaped and sized and configured to be at least partially received in a lumen of a hollow body in a patient's body, and the second component has an opening and is sized and configured to be positioned adjacent a second hollow body in the patient's body for forming an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

Figs. 1-5 are perspective views of anastomotic securing components constructed according to various embodiments of the invention;

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing two hollow bodies adapted to be joined in communication via an end-to-side anastomosis;

Fig. 7 is a perspective view showing two hollow bodies adapted to be joined in communication via a side-to-side anastomosis;

Fig. 8 is a perspective view showing two hollow bodies adapted to be joined in communication via an end-to-end anastomosis;

Fig. 9 is a perspective view of the two hollow bodies shown in Fig. 6 along with an anastomotic system including anastomotic securing components constructed according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 9A is a sectional view taken along line A-A in Fig. 9;

Fig. 10A is a section view similar to Fig. 9A but including alternative anastomotic securing components used to join the two hollow bodies;

Fig. 10B is a section view similar to Fig. 10A including other alternative anastomotic securing components for joining the two hollow bodies;

Fig. 10C is a section view similar to Fig. 10A but showing an alternative attachment between a hollow body and an anastomotic securing component;

Fig. 10D is a section view similar to Fig. 10C showing another alternative attachment between the hollow body and a securing component;

Fig. 11A is a transverse sectional view taken through an end-to-side anastomosis formed according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 11B is a transverse sectional view taken through an end-to-side anastomosis formed according to another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 12 is a perspective view showing two hollow bodies provided with anastomotic securing components constructed according to one embodiment of the invention, the two bodies adapted to be joined via a side-to-side anastomosis;

Fig. 13 is a perspective view showing the two hollow bodies of Fig. 12 provided with anastomotic securing components constructed according to another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 14A is a longitudinal sectional view taken through the side-to-side anastomosis formed according to the embodiment shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 14B is a transverse sectional view taken through the side-to-side anastomosis formed according to the embodiment shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 15 is a perspective view showing two hollow bodies provided with anastomotic securing components constructed according to one embodiment of the invention, the two bodies adapted to be joined via an end-to-end anastomosis;

Fig. 16 is a perspective view showing the two hollow bodies of Fig. 15 provided with anastomotic securing components constructed according to another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 17A is a plan view of one of the hollow bodies and securing components shown in Fig. 12;

Fig. 17B is a longitudinal sectional view of the hollow body and securing component shown in Fig. 17A;

Fig. 18A is a plan view of the hollow body of Figs. 17A-17B and a securing component constructed according to an alternative embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 18B is a longitudinal sectional view of the hollow body and securing component shown in Figs. 18A;

Fig. 19A is a perspective view of the anastomotic securing component shown in Figs. 18A-18B, the component positioned in an opening in a hollow body with a lumen having a stenosis disposed proximal to the opening;

Figs. 19B-19C show anastomotic securing components constructed according to further alternative embodiments of the invention, the components being shown positioned in the hollow body of Fig. 19A;

Fig. 20A is a perspective view of a delivery device constructed to one embodiment of the invention, the device being shown in a first position;

Fig. 20B is a perspective view of the delivery device shown in Fig. 20A, the device being shown in a second position;

Fig. 21A is a perspective view of the delivery device shown in Fig. 20A with a securing component constructed to one embodiment of the invention mounted thereon, the delivery device being shown in the first position;

Fig. 21B is a perspective view of the delivery device shown in Fig. 21A, wherein the device is shown in the second position as it is being manipulated to release the securing component;

Figs. 22A-22F are sectional views schematically illustrating the delivery device shown in Figs. 20A-20B being used to deploy anastomotic securing components to form an end-to-side anastomosis according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 23 is a perspective view of an exemplary application according to one embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 23A is an enlarged view of a portion of the embodiment of Fig. 23 but showing a completed anastomosis;

Fig. 24 is a perspective view of another exemplary application according to another embodiment of the invention;

Fig. 24A is an enlarged view of a portion of the embodiment of Fig. 24 but showing a completed anastomosis;

Fig. 25 is a perspective view of an exemplary application according to still another embodiment of the invention; and

Fig. 25A is an enlarged view of a portion of the embodiment of Fig. 25 but showing a completed AV shunt with two anastomoses.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWING FIGURES

The present invention relates to methods and devices for forming an anastomosis between first and second (or additional) hollow bodies located in a patient's body, for example, a connection between a graft vessel and coronary or peripheral blood vessels, viscera, reproductive ducts, etc. The anastomosis places the hollow bodies, more specifically the lumens of the hollow bodies, in communication. In the case of blood-carrying bodies (or other hollow bodies that carry fluid) the anastomosis places the bodies in fluid communication. The hollow bodies being joined may comprise native or autologous vessels, vessels formed of synthetic material such as ePTFE, DACRON®, etc.

Figs. 1-5 illustrate several exemplary embodiments of anastomotic securing components constructed according to the invention for use in forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies. Fig. 1 shows a securing component 10 with an annular body and an opening 12 defined by the body. The component 10 is generally plate-shaped and circular in plan view with a constant (or substantially constant) thickness and width around its perimeter. The securing component 10 is sized and configured to be placed adjacent an opening of a first hollow body that has been prepared for anastomosis to a second hollow body. A second securing component would be placed adjacent an opening of the second hollow body for making the anastomotic connection.

Fig. 2 shows an elliptical-shaped, anastomotic securing component 14 with an opening 16. The securing component 14 is generally plate-shaped and the opening 16 is configured to provide the securing component 14 with larger end portions 18 than side portions 20. Fig. 3 shows a racetrack-shaped securing component 22 with an opening 24. As in securing component 14, the opening 24 provides securing component 22 with larger end portions 26 than side portions 28. Fig. 4 shows a securing component 30 with an opening 32, two end portions 34, 36 and two side portions 38. The securing component 30 has a generally racetrack-shaped configuration, however, the end portion 36 is larger than the end portion 34 which provides the component 30 with an asymmetric configuration. Stated otherwise, the opening 32 is not centrally located with respect to the body of the component 30, unlike the openings 12, 16 and 24 of respective securing components 10, 14 and 22 shown in Figs. 1-3. Also, the end 36 provides a tapered leading edge for easier introduction into a hollow body such as blood vessel.

It will be understood that the specific shape and size of the securing components may be varied from the exemplary configurations depicted in Figs. 1-4. For example, the thickness or width of the securing component may vary along all or part of the body of the component. The anastomotic securing components of the invention are preferably, though not necessarily, plate-shaped, i.e., a first dimension D1 of the component is less than a second dimension D2 of the component (Fig 1). Typically, the lesser dimension corresponds to a thickness of the component while the larger dimension corresponds to a width or length of the component (or diameter in the case of Fig. 1). Minimizing the thickness of the securing component may be desirable for applications in which one or more components are placed within the lumen of a relatively small hollow body, e.g., a coronary artery, to reduce the amount of foreign material in the bloodstream and minimize flow impedance.

It will be noted that the securing components shown in Figs. 1-4 are generally flat; however, they could instead be curved or arcuate, or comprise a combination of flat and curved sections. Additionally, in the illustrated and preferred construction the shape of each securing component substantially corresponds to the opening therein. That is, the securing component and its opening preferably have complementary configurations (e.g., elliptical component, elliptical opening). Nevertheless, the securing component could have a non-complementarily-shaped opening. Finally, while each of the illustrated securing components includes only one opening, more than one opening could be used if desired.

According to preferred embodiments of the invention the anastomotic securing components are formed of or have incorporated therein a material capable of producing a magnetic field that acts to maintain the components in a desired positional relationship. The magnetic field results in the securing components maintaining the first and second hollow bodies in a desired position so as to be in fluid-tight communication. The material used to form one or both securing components is preferably magnetic, ferromagnetic or electromagnetic.

Each of the securing components shown in Figs. 1-4 is formed substantially entirely of a suitable, magnetic field-producing material such that magnetic force may be generated over the entire area of the component. Fig. 5 shows an alternative embodiment wherein a securing component 40, which has an opening 42 and a racetrack-shaped configuration similar to securing component 22 of Fig. 3, has defined portions capable of producing a magnetic field. Specifically, the securing

component 40 includes magnetic field-producing members 44 located at discrete areas which, in the illustrated embodiment, are at the ends of the component. The remaining areas 46 may thus be formed of a different material. It will be recognized that the members 44 could be located at alternative (or additional) areas of the securing component 40. An exemplary reason for providing the securing component 40 with areas 46 is to allow the use of a rigid magnetic material for the members 44 while still permitting the component to be partially or completely collapsed, for example, for delivery through a small incision or port, trocar, catheter, cannula, etc., by folding the areas 46.

Suitable materials that may be used to form an anastomotic securing component that is capable of producing a magnetic field include NdFeB (Neodymium Iron Boron), SmCo (Samarium Cobalt), and Alnico (Aluminum Nickel Cobalt). NdFeB is currently preferred for its force characteristics. The amount of force exerts will depend on various factors including the materials used, the size of the magnets and the number of magnets. In addition, different applications will call for different force ranges. For instance, it may be desirable to minimize the force as much as possible while still achieving a fluid-tight and secure attachment when treating small diameter blood vessels. As an example, in anastomosing coronary vessels, it is preferred to use anastomotic securing components that produce magnetic force in the area of less than 0.25 lbs, and more preferably approximately 0.15 lbs or less.

Figs. 6-8 depict first and second hollow bodies that have been prepared for anastomosis in three different manners. Fig. 6 shows a first hollow body 50 with an opening 52 that is adapted to be joined to an opening 54 of a second hollow body 56 to form an end-to-side anastomosis. The completed anastomosis places the lumens of the respective hollow bodies in communication. The opening 52 is formed in the wall of the first hollow body 50, for example, by incising or punching the tissue of the wall, while the opening 54 is defined by an end of the second hollow body 56. Fig. 7 shows a first hollow body 58 with an opening 60 adapted to be joined to an opening 62 of a second hollow body 64, thereby forming a side-to-side anastomosis that places their lumens in communication. The openings 60, 62 are formed in the walls of the hollow bodies 58, 64, for example, as described above regarding opening 52. Fig. 8 shows a first hollow body 66 with an opening 68 adapted to be joined to an opening

70 of a second hollow body 72 to form an end-to-side anastomosis. Each opening 68, 70 is defined by an end of its associated hollow body 66, 72.

Figs. 9 and 9A show first and second hollow bodies 74, 76 respectively provided with first and second anastomotic securing components 78, 80 which are used to create an exemplary end-to-side anastomosis according to one embodiment of the invention. As shown best in Fig. 9A, the securing component 78 includes two members 78A, 78B disposed on opposite surfaces of a wall of the first hollow body 74. The securing component 80 includes two members 80A, 80B disposed on opposite surfaces of an everted end of the second hollow body 76. The members forming each securing component 76, 78 may be held in a desired and preferably fixed relative position by magnetic force, with magnetic force also being used to hold the two securing components in position. The securing components 78, 80 are moved together from the position of Fig. 9A to create a fluid-tight anastomosis.

Figs. 10A-10D depict additional end-to-side anastomoses formed according to other embodiments of the invention. Fig. 10A shows a first securing component 82 coupled to a first hollow body 84 and a second securing component 86 coupled to a second hollow body 88. The securing components 82, 86 have a laminated structure comprising a layer of material 80 capable of producing a magnetic field disposed between two layers of material 82. The material 82 may also be capable of producing a magnetic field or, alternatively, ferromagnetic or non-ferromagnetic, and may comprise a metal, polymer, ceramic, etc.

One exemplary application of this particular feature of the invention comprises a securing component with a middle layer of NdFeB (Neodymium Iron Boron -- magnetic) and two outer layers of 302 stainless steel (non-magnetic). The outer layers are bonded by suitable adhesive to the middle layer. Alternatively, the two outer layers could comprise a magnetic material, e.g., 440C stainless steel, surrounding a middle layer that is either magnetic or non-magnetic. As an example, the securing component may comprise a 0.008" thick magnetic layer and two 0.001" outer steel layers. It will be understood that this aspect of the invention may be practiced using other materials.

A benefit of this construction is that it allows the thickness of the magnetic layer to be reduced (which makes the brittle magnet more easily fractured) because the other layer(s) may be formed of a material which provides the assembly with the necessary strength, even if the other layer is very thin. In the above example,

the steel layers may be very thin yet still able to absorb the load, e.g., the tensile forces that arise during movement of the hollow body or adjacent tissue. The particular overall dimensions of the securing component, as well as the dimensions of individual layer (or layers if a multilayer construction is used) will of course depend on the application. (As examples, for the securing component 22 shown in Fig. 3, the thickness is preferably less than 0.040", and more preferably less than 0.020", e.g., approximately 0.015" or even less, e.g., 0.008".)

The ability to form a very thin securing component allows formation of an anastomosis between relatively small hollow bodies, e.g., coronary blood vessels. Further, the anastomosis can be formed between blood-carrying hollow bodies with one or more of the securing components located in the blood flow path while minimizing the foreign material exposed to blood.

Fig. 10B shows first and second securing components 90, 92 coupled to first and second hollow bodies 94, 96. The first securing component 90 comprises a single member 98 positioned within the lumen of the first hollow body 94 against the interior surface of the wall of the body adjacent an opening therein. The member 98 has a coating 100 substantially, and preferably completely, surrounding its exterior surface. It may be desirable in some applications to apply a suitable coating, or alternatively, a suitable surface treatment, to all or part of the anastomotic securing component. For example, if the first hollow body 94 represents a blood vessel such as a coronary or peripheral artery, the securing component 90 will be exposed to the blood flow path. As such, depending on the material used to form the member 98, it may be desirable or necessary to coat or otherwise treat its surface to promote better thrombogenicity and/or improve flow past the anastomosis site. Some exemplary materials that may be used to coat or otherwise treat an anastomotic securing component constructed according to the invention include Gold, Platinum, Titanium Nitride, Parylene, Silicone, Urethane, Epoxy, Teflon and Polypropylene.

Fig. 10C shows an embodiment wherein first and second securing components 102, 104 are coupled to first and second hollow bodies 106, 108. Each component 102, 104 comprises a single member formed, as explained above, of a magnetic, ferromagnetic, or electromagnetic material. This embodiment, instead of everting an end of one of the hollow bodies 106, 108, provides the first securing component 102 with a portion 110 configured to attach the end of the first hollow body 106. The portion 110 may take various forms, for example, a DACRON®

suture ring or bioadhesive. It will be recognized that the portion for attaching the hollow body may be located at different areas of the second securing component 104 than shown in Fig. 10C.

Fig. 10D shows an embodiment of the invention similar to that of Fig. 10C with first and second securing components 112, 114 coupled to first and second hollow bodies 116, 118. The means for attaching the first securing component 112 to the first hollow body 116 in this embodiment comprises an expandable member 120, such as a stent, disposed within the lumen of the first hollow body. The member 120 forces the end of the first hollow body 116 against the first securing component 112 to attach the elements in a fluid-tight fashion. It will be appreciated that the embodiments of Figs. 10C and 10D are only two of the various ways in which a securing component may be coupled to a hollow body with everting tissue of the hollow body.

Fig. 11A is a transverse sectional view taken through an end-to-side anastomosis created by first and second securing components 122, 124 which are positioned adjacent openings of first and second hollow bodies 126, 128. The securing components 122, 124 are plate-shaped (as described above) and generally flat. Fig. 11B shows first and second securing components 130, 132 constructed according to an alternative embodiment of the invention positioned adjacent the openings of first and second hollow bodies 126, 128. The securing components 130, 132 are also plate-shaped but, rather than being generally flat, are arcuate or curved. As can be seen, the curvature of the securing components 130, 132 maintains the first hollow body 126 in a substantially round configuration as compared to the more flattened-out shape it assumes when used with the flat securing components 122, 124.

The arcuate securing components 130, 132 preferably have complementarily or substantially complementarily radii of curvature to provide an even distribution of force and good sealing. The securing components of the invention could, however, have different degrees of curvature, the curvature of each being either constant or changing over the body of the component. Also, while the illustrated securing components 130, 132 extend over approximately 120°, other configurations that extend between 0° and 360° could be used if desired, for example, 180°. Finally, while Figs. 11A and 11B show, respectively, a pair of flat components and a pair of arcuate components, the securing components of each pair used to create the anastomosis may have dissimilar configurations to varying degrees.

Figs. 12 and 13 show other embodiments of the invention wherein first and second hollow bodies 134, 136 are respectively provided with securing components in order to create an end-to-side anastomosis. The embodiment of Fig. 12 utilizes first and second securing components 138, 140 respectively positioned adjacent openings in the hollow bodies 134, 136. Each securing component 134, 136 includes a single member that may comprise one or more materials and one or more layers, as described above. The components may be fixed by adhesive or other means or remain in position via magnetic force, as explained above. The securing components 138, 140 are positioned through openings formed in the wall of the hollow bodies 134, 136 and are located within the respective lumens L1, L2 thereof, as shown in Figs. 14A and 14B. Once joined the components 138, 140 form a fluid-tight anastomosis that places the first and second hollow bodies 134, 136 in communication. If the hollow bodies 134, 136 are blood (or other fluid) carrying structures, the anastomosis places them in fluid communication and provides a fluid-tight seal.

The embodiment of Fig. 13 uses first and second securing components 142, 144 which are respectively positioned adjacent openings in the hollow bodies 134, 136 so as to be partially disposed within the lumens thereof. The opening in each hollow body may be formed by making a surgical incision, removing tissue with a punch, etc. Each securing component 142, 144 includes a pair of members, and each member may comprise one or more materials and one or more layers. One member of each securing component 142, 144 is positioned within the lumen of its hollow body while the other member of the securing component is positioned on the exterior of the hollow body with tissue in between.

Figs. 15 and 16 show further embodiments of the invention wherein first and second hollow bodies 146, 148 are respectively provided with first and second anastomotic securing components in order to create an end-to-end anastomosis. Fig. 15 shows first and second securing components 150, 152 positioned adjacent respective openings of the hollow bodies 146, 148, each opening being defined by an end of a hollow body and extending into the lumen thereof.

Each securing component 150, 152 includes a single member that may be constructed as described above. An end of each hollow body 146, 148 is passed through the opening defined in by a respective securing component and then is everted over the exterior of the component. As a result, joining the first and second

securing components 150, 152 in end-to-end fashion places the everted ends of the hollow bodies 146, 148 in sealed contact. In a case where the hollow bodies are natural blood vessels, such an anastomosis places the intimal surfaces of the vessels in contact.

The embodiment of Fig. 16 includes first and second securing components 154, 156 positioned adjacent the openings of hollow bodies 146, 148, respectively. The securing components 154, 156 each comprise a pair of members constructed as described above. The first securing component 154 includes one member 154A positioned around the exterior of the first hollow body 146 (with the end thereof everted), and another member 154B positioned around the opening defined by the end of the hollow body 146, the members 154A, 154B being held in place by magnetic force. The second securing component 156 has the same or a similar construction and includes members 156A, 156B which are positioned adjacent the end of the second hollow body 148. In the embodiments of Figs. 15-16 the securing components are not located within the lumen of either hollow body and thus are not exposed to fluid or other substances contained therein or moving therethrough.

Another embodiment of the invention will be described with reference to Figs. 17A-17B. Fig. 17A shows a hollow body 160 with an opening 162 and an anastomotic securing component 164 positioned adjacent the opening. The securing component 164 is positioned within the lumen L of the hollow body 160 and has an opening 166. The opening 166 is aligned with the opening 162 in the wall of the body 160 as shown. In some instances, for example, when the securing component is forced through an incision in the wall, the tissue defining the opening 162 may move over the opening 166 of the securing component 164, as shown in Fig. 17B. As indicated by reference numeral 168 in Fig. 17B, this reduces the effective area of the securing component 164 that is available to communicate with a second hollow body to which the hollow body 160 is anastomosed (not shown).

Fig. 18A-18B show the hollow body 160 with the opening 162 of Figs. 17A-17B, however, a securing component 170 constructed according to another embodiment of the invention is positioned adjacent the opening 162. The securing component 170 has an opening 172 and has a feature for maintaining the opening 162 open to flow. The securing component 170 comprises a flange 174 and an extension 176 coupled thereto (or formed integrally therewith). As can be seen, the extension 174 prevents tissue defining or adjacent the opening 162 of hollow body 160 from

migrating or springing back after delivery to reduce the cross-sectional flow area of the securing component 170.

Figs. 19A-19C show a hollow body 180 which may, for example, represent a patient's coronary or peripheral artery the lumen of which is stenosed at S. In Fig. 19A, the hollow body 180 is provided with the anastomotic securing component 170 of Figs. 18A-18B by coupling the securing component to an opening in the wall of the artery, thereby forming a site for creating an end-to-side or side-to-side anastomosis. In Fig. 19B, the hollow body 180 is provided with an alternatively configured anastomotic securing component 182 which includes a flange 184 and a discontinuous or segmented extension 186 passing all or partly through the opening in the wall of the hollow body. Fig. 19C shows a securing component 188 with a multi-part construction including a flange 190 and a separate extension 192 which is received in the opening of the hollow body 180. It should be understood that these are only a few of the various constructions that may be employed in practicing this aspect of the invention.

The anastomotic securing components of the invention may be delivered and deployed in various ways. Figs. 20A-20B and 21A-21B depict somewhat schematically an exemplary delivery device 200 including a first portion 202 operatively coupled to a second portion 204. The first portion 202 is fixed to a shaft 206 while the second portion 204 is fixed to shaft 208 passing through a slot 210 in the portion 202. The first portion 202 defines a support ledge 212 and the second portion 202 similarly defines a support ledge 214. Fig. 20A shows the device 200 in a first position for retaining an anastomotic securing component of the invention. This position is shown in Fig. 21A wherein the ledges 212, 214 support a securing component 216 with the opening 218 of the component surrounding a boss 220 that extends upwardly from the ledges. The boss 220 is preferably used to help align the securing component on the support ledges 212, 214 and, if used in an application with an opening formed in a side wall of a hollow body, to restrain the surrounding tissue during placement.

Figs. 20B and 21B show the device 200 after it has been moved to a second position from the position of Figs. 20A and 21A. This is achieved by moving the shaft 208 in the direction of the arrows to slide the second portion 204 with respect to the first portion 202, which moves the support ledge 214 within the opening 218 of the anastomotic securing component 216 (Fig. 21B). This allows the user to

separate the device 200 from the securing component 216 once the latter has been positioned at the desired location. As shown, depending on the relative dimensions and shapes of the respective components it may be necessary to rock or otherwise manipulate the device 200 relative to the securing component 216 in order to separate them.

It will be understood that the illustrated delivery device 200 is only one possible device suitable for use in placing the anastomotic securing components of the invention, and that it may be modified or replaced with a different delivery device or system. For example, the delivery device 200 could be altered so that both support ledges 212, 214 are moved with respect to the boss 220 (if used) in order to move fully out of contact with and release the securing component. Any suitable material(s) may be used to construct the delivery device 200, it being appreciated using magnetic or ferromagnetic materials may result in magnetic interaction with the securing components, which may be desired to facilitate delivery of the components. The delivery device could also be constructed of nonmagnetic or ferromagnetic materials such as titanium, polymers, etc.

For sake of example, the creation of an anastomosis using the delivery device 200 and first and second securing components of the invention will be described with respect to Figs. 22A-22F. Fig. 22A shows the delivery device 200 with a first securing component 222 comprising two members 222A, 222B, the former member being supported by the ledges 212, 214 of the device 200 while the latter member is held above the ledges (e.g., by magnetic attraction to the device 200). The member 222A is being inserted into an opening in the wall of a blood vessel V with a stenosis S. The member 222A may be shaped or otherwise treated to ease insertion into the vessel lumen; for example, the leading edge of the member 222A may be formed as shown in the embodiment of Fig. 5.

Fig. 22B shows the one member 222A of securing component 222 positioned against the interior surface of the wall of the vessel and the other member 222B being moved toward the vessel wall. Fig. 22C shows the members 222A, 222B in position with the delivery device 200 remaining. Fig. 22D shows the device 200 being removed through first securing component 222, and Fig. 22E shows the securing component 222 remaining in the vessel wall to form what may be characterized as a magnetic port P. The securing component(s) may be provided with

a surface treatment, such as coatings, roughened or treated areas, or mechanical projections, to enhance engagement with the wall of the hollow body.

The illustrated securing component 222 defines the magnetic port P and produces a magnetic field that may be used to couple another vessel to the port. In Fig. 22F, a graft vessel G provided with a second securing component 224 (which itself includes two members) is anastomosed to the port P with magnetic force holding the first and second securing components 222, 224 in a desired relative position. The invention may also be practiced using means for fixing the relative distance between the first and second securing components, for example, to prevent tissue being forced or squeezed from the space between the components due to the application of the magnetic force over time. Such means could comprise projections that extend directly between the components and act as a stop, or an intermediate element coupled to the components to restrain them against further movement. It will be recognized that forming a magnetic port according to the invention may also be used in non-vascular applications, as well as applications not requiring an anastomosis to another vessel, for example, to provide an access to an area of a patient's body.

Several exemplary applications of the invention will be described with reference to Figs. 23-23A, 24-24A and 23-25A. Fig. 23 is an anterior view of a human heart with a graft vessel G having one end 230 attached to the aorta, e.g., by a sutured anastomosis, and another end 232 prepared to be anastomosed to an occluded LAD. One securing component 234 is coupled to the end 232 of the graft G by any of the methods described above, and another securing component 236 is coupled to the LAD adjacent an opening therein. The securing components 234, 236 are formed (at least in part) of materials capable of producing a magnetic field so that they may be attached as shown in Fig. 23A, thereby placing the graft G in fluid communication with the lumen of the LAD. The graft G could alternatively be attached to the aorta by an anastomotic system constructed according to the invention.

Fig. 24 shows another exemplary application of the invention applied to the heart shown in Fig. 23. A ventriculocoronary shunt S has one end 237 placed in the myocardium in fluid communication with the left ventricle LV. The shunt S is provided with a securing component 238 adjacent its other end while the LAD is provided with the securing component 236 of Fig 23. The shunt S is adapted to be coupled to the LAD via a side-to-side anastomosis, therefore the securing component 238 is positioned in an opening in the side wall of the shunt (and the free end of the

shunt is tied off at 240). Fig. 24A shows the completed anastomosis once the securing components 236, 238 have been coupled and remain in position via the magnetic field produced according to the teachings of the invention.

Figs. 25-25A illustrate yet another example of the many different applications of the invention, namely, the creation of an AV shunt. Fig. 25 shows a patient's arm including a number of the blood vessels located therein. An artery 242 is shown disposed in relatively close proximity to a vein 244. AV shunts are often created between an artery and vein in order to provide a site for repeatedly accessing a patient's vascular system, for example, to treat dialysis patients. The shunt itself is typically formed of synthetic graft material and can withstand repeated needle sticks much better than a natural vein. An AV shunt 246 is created between the artery 242 and vein 244 by forming a side-to-side anastomosis using first and second securing components 248, 250. The shunt 246 is preferably formed of ePTFE, DACRON® or another suitable synthetic graft material.

It should be appreciated that the applications of Figs. 23-23A, 24-24A and 25-25A represent several of many different uses for the invention. Other applications for the invention include, for example, neurological, urological and gastrointestinal procedures. As a further example, the invention could be used to form an anastomosis with an existing CABG graft that has partially or completely occluded over time, for instance, by placing the anastomotic securing components in the graft distal to the occlusion. In short, it will be recognized that the invention may be modified in varying degrees from the preferred embodiments illustrated and described specifically herein.

As noted above, it will be recognized that the invention may be used in many different procedures, for example, femoral-femoral, femoral-popliteal, femoral-tibial, ilio-femoral, axillary-femoral, subclavian-femoral, aortic-bifemoral, aorto-iliac, aorto-profunda femoris and extra-anatomic bypasses. In sum, the invention may be used to create an anastomosis with many different vessels, including, without limitation, the renal arteries, mesenteric vessel, inferior mesenteric artery, croneal trunk, peroneal and tibial arteries.

The preferred embodiments of the invention are described above in detail for the purpose of setting forth a complete disclosure and for sake of

explanation and clarity. It will be readily understood that the scope of the invention defined by the appended claims will encompass numerous changes and modifications.

What is claimed is:

1. A method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies each of which has a lumen and an opening extending into the lumen, the method comprising steps of:
 - (a) positioning a first securing component adjacent the opening in the first hollow body;
 - (b) positioning a second securing component adjacent the opening in second hollow body; and
 - (c) using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow bodies in communication.
2. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second hollow bodies are vessels that carry blood and at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed without everting either vessel.
3. The method of claim 1, wherein the first and second hollow bodies are first and second blood vessels that are placed in fluid communication, and at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed so that at least one of the first and second securing components is exposed to blood flow.
4. The method of claim 3, wherein at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed by positioning at least one of the first and second securing components through an opening formed in a wall of one of the first and second vessels.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein said step is performed by positioning the one securing component substantially entirely within the lumen of the one vessel.
6. The method of claim 4, further comprising the step of maintaining the opening in the wall of the one vessel after placement of the one securing component.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the one securing component includes an extension, and further comprising the step of positioning the securing component within the lumen of the one vessel with the extension extending through the opening in the wall of the vessel.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein step (c) is performed by using magnetic force to bias the first and second securing components to join the first and second hollow structures in communication .

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the steps are performed to create an anastomosis selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed by positioning first and second securing components that are formed at least in part of a material selected from the group consisting of magnetic, electromagnetic and ferromagnetic materials.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein step (a) is performed by positioning a first securing component that is formed of a magnetic material and step (b) is performed by positioning a second securing component that is formed of a ferromagnetic material.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein steps (a) and (b) are performed by positioning first and second securing components that are respectively formed of magnetic materials having opposite polarity.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the anastomosis is formed solely by magnetic force.

14. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of preventing the first and second securing components from migrating toward each other beyond a predetermined distance.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed by forming a noncircular opening in the hollow body.

16. A method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies each of which has a lumen, the method comprising the step of:

using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow structures in communication;

wherein the first hollow body has proximal and distal portions, and the anastomosis is disposed between the proximal and distal portions of the first hollow body.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the anastomosis selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the first hollow body is a native blood vessel and the second hollow body is a graft vessel.

19. A method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies each of which has a lumen and an opening extending into the lumen, the method comprising steps of:

----- (a) positioning a first securing component adjacent an opening in the first hollow body;

(b) positioning a second securing component adjacent an opening in the second hollow body; and

(c) using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow structures in communication;

wherein at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed without everting tissue.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein each of the first and second securing components is positioned adjacent the opening in a respective hollow body without everting tissue of the hollow body.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein the anastomosis is selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

22. The method of claim 19, wherein at least one of the first and second securing components includes two members, and at least one of steps (a) and (b) is performed by positioning the two members adjacent internal and external surfaces of the wall of one of the first and second hollow bodies such that the two members remain in position with respect to the wall of said one body by magnetic force.

23. The method of claim 22, wherein the other of the first and second securing components includes two members, and the other of steps (a) and (b) is performed by positioning the two members adjacent internal and external surfaces of the wall of the other of the first and second hollow bodies such that the two members remain in position with respect to the wall of said other body by magnetic force.

24. A method using magnetism for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies each of which has a blood-carrying lumen, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) positioning a first securing component adjacent the first hollow body;
- (b) positioning a second securing component adjacent the second hollow body; and
- (c) using magnetic force to control the relative position of the first and second securing components and form an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies with the blood-carrying lumens of the first and second hollow bodies in communication;

wherein at least one of the first and second securing components is at least partially disposed within the blood-carrying lumen of one of the first and second hollow bodies.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein the one securing component is substantially entirely disposed within the blood-carrying lumen of the one hollow body.

26. The method of claim 24, wherein the anastomosis formed according to step (c) is selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

27. A method for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies each of which has a wall and a blood-carrying lumen, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) positioning a first securing component through an opening in the wall of the first hollow body and at least partially within the lumen of the first hollow body;
 - (b) positioning a second securing component adjacent the second hollow body;
 - (c) applying a coupling force to the first and second securing components without penetrating the wall of the first hollow body; and
 - (d) forming a seal between the first and second hollow bodies with the lumens of the first and second hollow bodies in communication;
- wherein the coupling force is applied and the seal is formed at substantially the same location.

28. The method of claim 27, wherein step (c) is performed by using magnetism to apply the coupling force to the first and second securing components.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the opening in the first hollow body is an incision through which the first securing component is passed, and the coupling force is applied and the seal is formed at a location that is spaced from the incision in a radial direction.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the anastomosis is selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

31. The method of claim 30, wherein the first hollow body is a native blood vessel and the second hollow body is a synthetic blood vessel.

32. A method for forming an anastomosis to a side wall of a blood vessel, the method comprising steps of:

(a) selecting a target blood vessel having a blood-carrying lumen and a side wall, and selecting a graft blood vessel having a blood-carrying lumen; providing an opening in the side wall of the target vessel that communicates with the lumen of the target vessel; and

(b) creating an anastomosis between the graft vessel and the target vessel adjacent the opening in the side wall of the target vessel so as to place the graft vessel lumen in communication with the target vessel lumen;

wherein the anastomosis is created using magnetic force, and the magnetic force is sufficient to maintain the anastomosis between the graft vessel and the target vessel.

33. The method of claim 32, wherein the anastomosis is created by placing at least one anastomotic component in communication with the opening in the side wall of the target vessel.

34. The method of claim 33, wherein the anastomotic component is positioned at least partially within the lumen of the target vessel.

35. The method of claim 33, wherein the anastomosis component is secured to the side wall of the target vessel by compressing the tissue of the side wall.

36. The method of claim 32, wherein the anastomosis that is created is selected from the group consisting of end-to-side and side-to-side anastomoses.

37. The method of claim 32, wherein the anastomosis is created without penetrating either vessel.

38. The method of claim 32, wherein the anastomosis is created and maintained solely by magnetic force.

39. The method of claim 32, wherein the anastomosis is created without everting at least one of the vessels.

40. A method for forming an anastomosis to a side wall of a blood vessel, the method comprising steps of:

- (a) selecting a target blood vessel having a blood-carrying lumen and a side wall, and selecting a graft blood vessel having a blood-carrying lumen;
- (b) providing an opening in the side wall of the target vessel that communicates with the lumen of the target vessel;
- (c) securing an anastomotic component to the side wall of the target vessel adjacent the opening in the side wall of the target vessel, the anastomotic component being capable of producing a magnetic field; and
- (d) using magnetic force to form an anastomosis between the graft vessel and the target vessel.

41. The method of claim 40, wherein the anastomosis is formed by using magnetic force, and the magnetic force is sufficient to maintain the anastomosis between the graft vessel and the target vessel.

42. The method of claim 41, wherein the anastomosis is created and maintained solely by magnetic force.

43. The method of claim 40, wherein the target vessel is the aorta and the anastomotic component is placed in communication with an aortotomy formed in the wall of the aorta, and the graft vessel is a natural blood vessel harvested from the patient and coupled to the anastomotic component.

44. The method of claim 40, wherein the anastomotic component secured to the target vessel presents a magnetic field that is used to couple a second anastomosis component to the first component via magnetic force.

45. The method of claim 40, wherein the first anastomotic component is secured to the target vessel and presents at least one exposed surface for magnetic coupling.

46. The method of claim 45, wherein a second anastomotic component is secured to the graft vessel and presents an exposed surface that is coupled to the exposed surface of the first anastomotic component.

47. A system for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies in a patient's body, the system comprising:

first and second securing components capable of producing a magnetic field that applies force to maintain the securing components in a desired relative position;

wherein the first securing component is substantially plate-shaped and sized and configured to be at least partially received in a lumen of a hollow body in a patient's body, the first securing component having an opening; and

wherein the second component is sized and configured to be positioned adjacent a second hollow body in the patient's body for forming an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies, the second securing component having an opening.

48. The system of claim 47, wherein the first securing component has a first dimension measured in a first direction, and the first dimension is less than 1 mm.

49. The system of claim 47, wherein the first securing component is substantially flat along the length.

50. The system of claim 47, wherein at least one of the first and second securing components has a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, elliptical and racetrack shaped configurations.

51. The system of claim 50, wherein both of the first and second securing components have a shape selected from the group consisting of circular, elliptical and racetrack shaped configurations.

52. The system of claim 51, wherein the first and second securing components have a substantially complementary shape.

53. The system of claim 47, wherein the first and second securing components are formed at least in part of a material selected from the group consisting of magnetic, electromagnetic and ferromagnetic materials.

54. The system of claim 53, wherein the first securing component is formed of a magnetic material and the second securing component is formed of a ferromagnetic material.

55. The system of claim 53, wherein the first and second securing components are respectively formed of magnetic materials having opposite polarity.

56. The system of claim 53, wherein at least one of the first and second securing components includes magnetic and non-magnetic portions.

57. The system of claim 56, wherein the one securing component is at least partially collapsible.

58. The system of claim 47, wherein the first and second securing components are configured to apply a magnetic force that is less than 0.25 lbs.

59. The system of claim 47, wherein at least one of the first and second securing components has a thickness less than 0.040".

60. The system of claim 57, wherein the thickness of the one securing component has a thickness less than 0.020".

61 A system for forming an anastomosis between first and second hollow bodies, the device comprising:

first and second anastomotic components each of which comprises at least in part a material capable of producing a magnetic field, each of the first and second components having a generally annular shape that defines an opening;

wherein the first component is adapted to engage a first hollow body and the second component is adapted to engage a second hollow body; and

wherein the first component has an exposed portion configured to be coupled to the second component by magnetic force to create an anastomosis between the first and second hollow bodies.

62. The system of claim 61, wherein at least one of the components has a thickness, a width and a length, and the thickness is less than the width or the length.

63. The system of claim 61, wherein the thickness is less than 1 mm.

64. The system of claim 61, wherein the second component has an exposed surface that is coupled to the exposed surface of the first component.

65. The system of claim 61, wherein at least one of the first and second components is capable of being secured to a respective hollow body without piercing or penetrating the tissue of the hollow body.

66. A device for forming a magnetic port in a patient's body, the device comprising:

a component formed at least in part of a material capable of producing a magnetic field, the component having a generally annular shape defining an opening;

wherein the component is adapted to be secured to a side wall of a hollow body having an interior, and the opening is sized and configured for communicating with the interior of the hollow body when the component is secured thereto; and

wherein the component is configured to be secured to the side wall of the hollow body adjacent an access opening provided in the side wall, thereby forming a port that enters the interior of the hollow body while providing a magnetic field for coupling the port to another member via magnetic attraction.

67. The device of claim 66, wherein the component has an exterior portion that is adapted to be directly coupled to another member via magnetic attraction.

68. The device of claim 66, wherein the component is configured to be secured to the side wall of a hollow body by compressing the tissue of the side wall.

69. The device of claim 68, wherein the component is configured to be secured to the side wall of a hollow body by using magnetic force to compress the tissue of the side wall.

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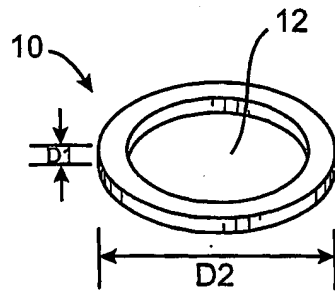


FIG. 1

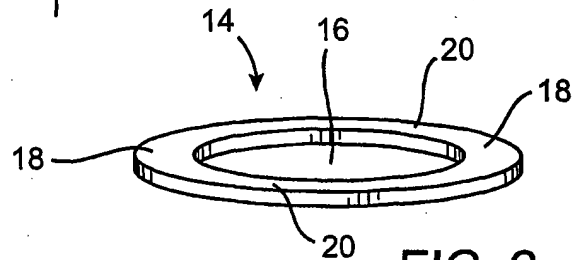


FIG. 2

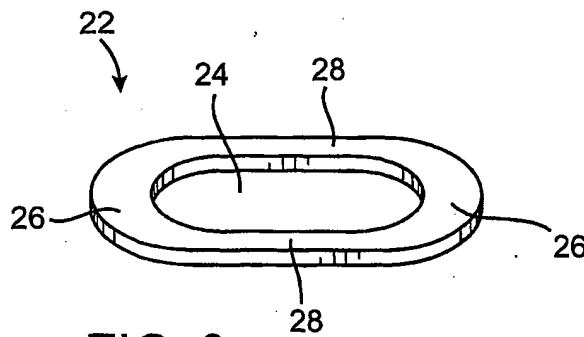


FIG. 3

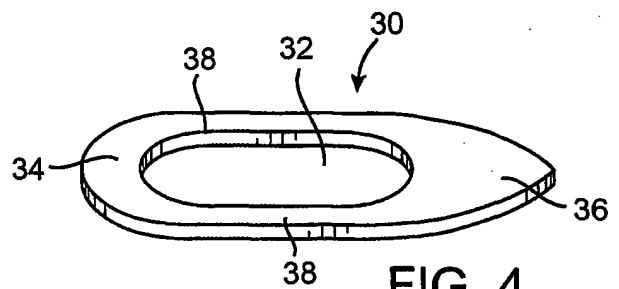


FIG. 4

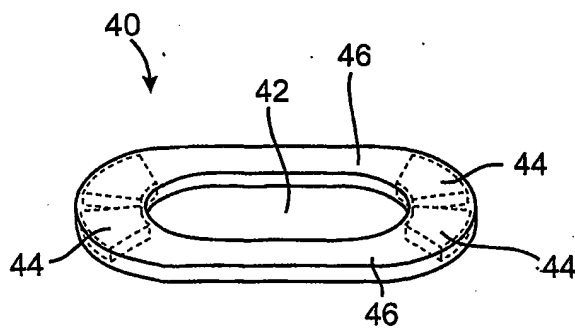


FIG. 5

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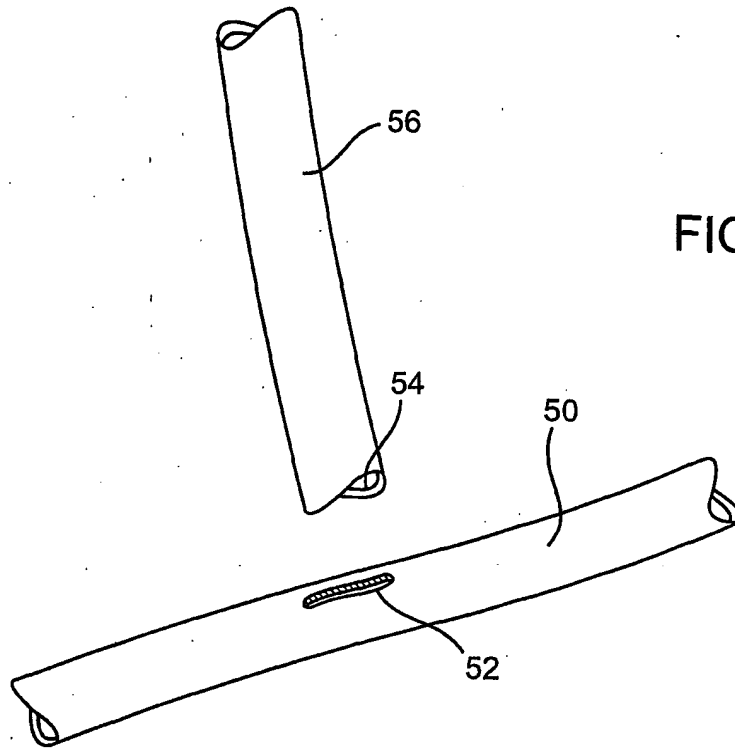


FIG. 6

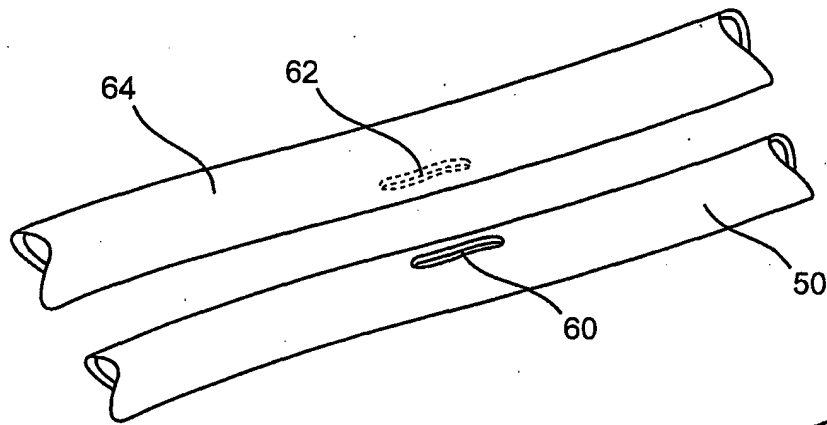


FIG. 7

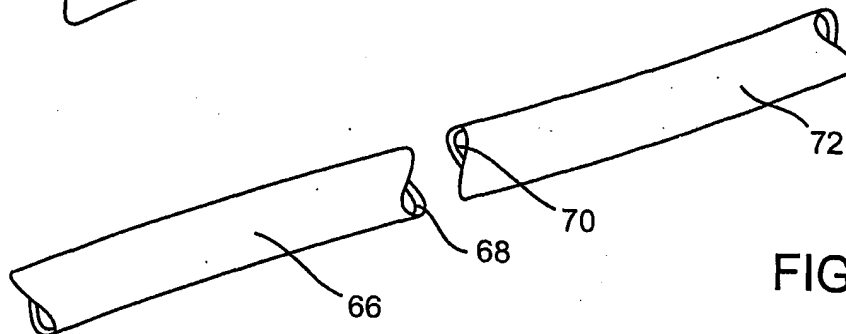


FIG. 8

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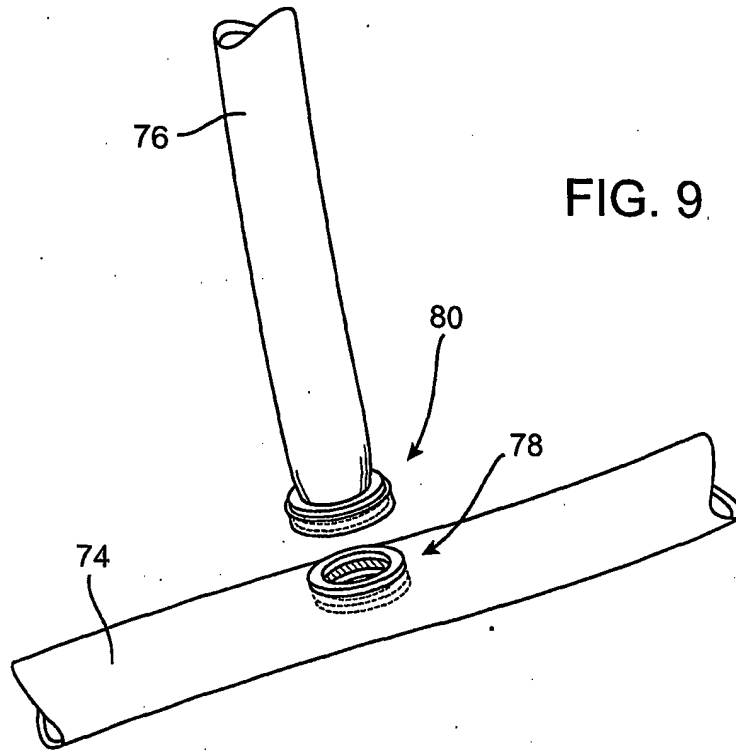


FIG. 9

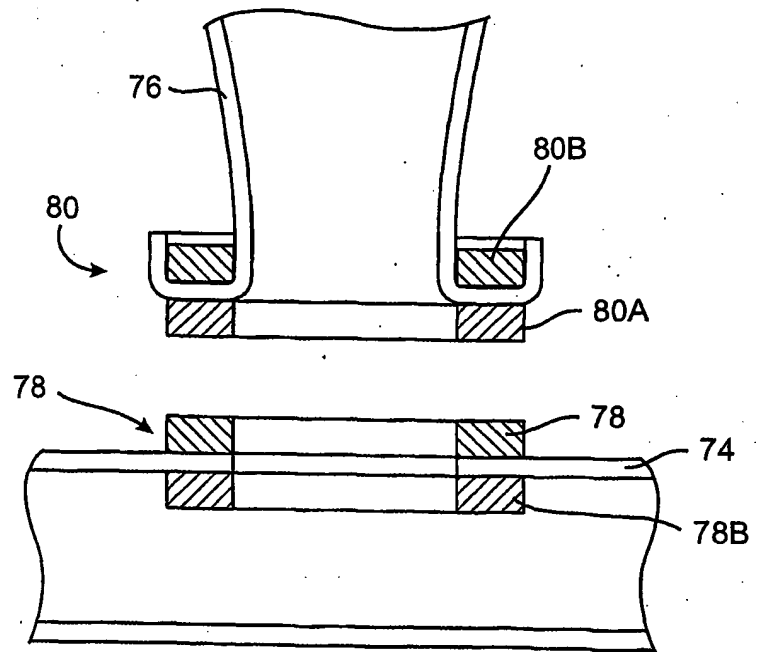


FIG. 9A

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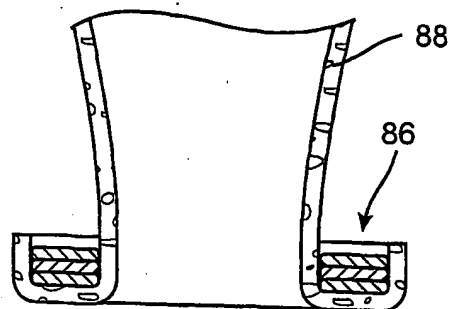


FIG. 10A

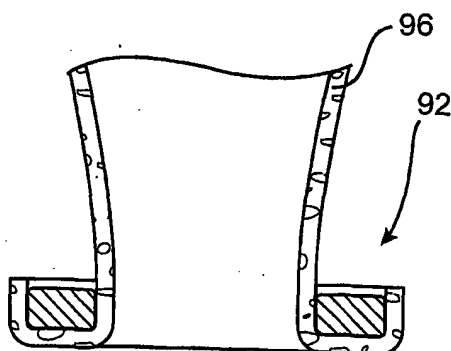
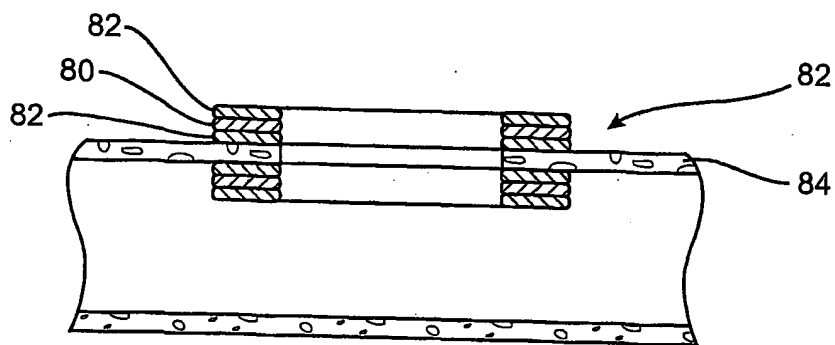
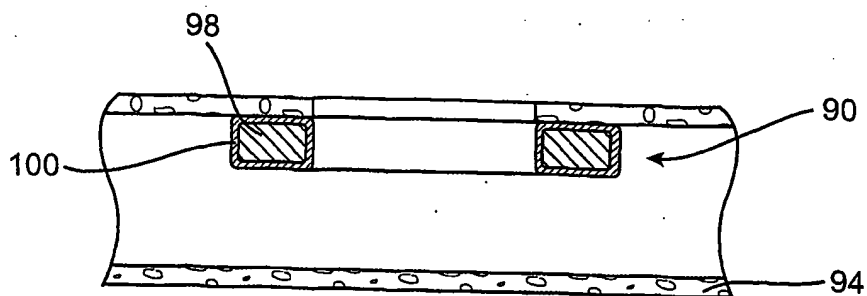
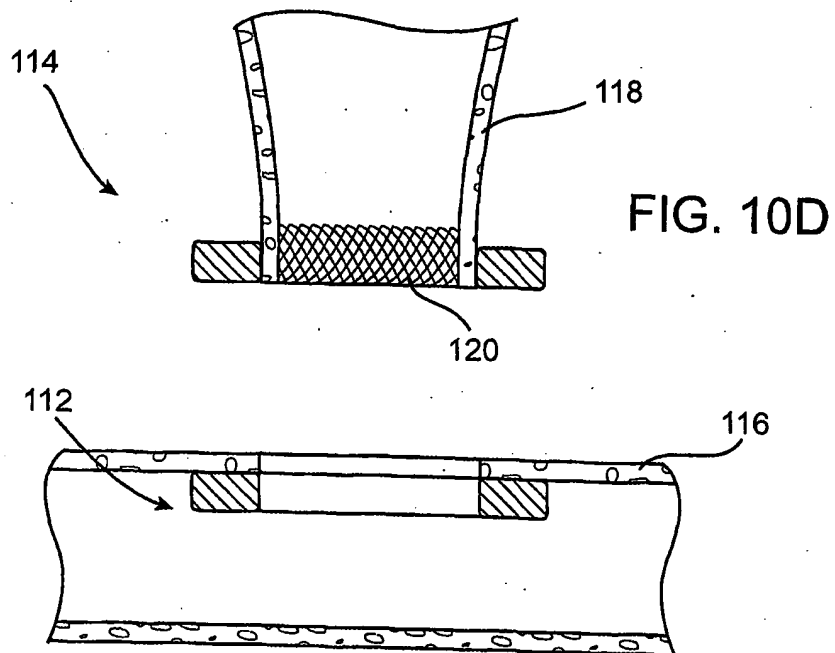
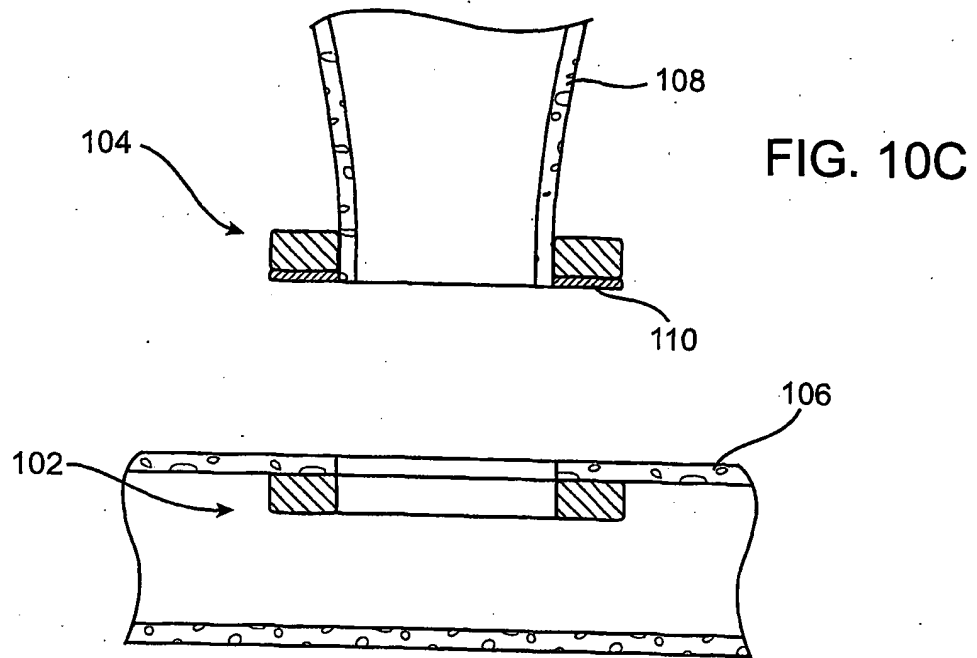


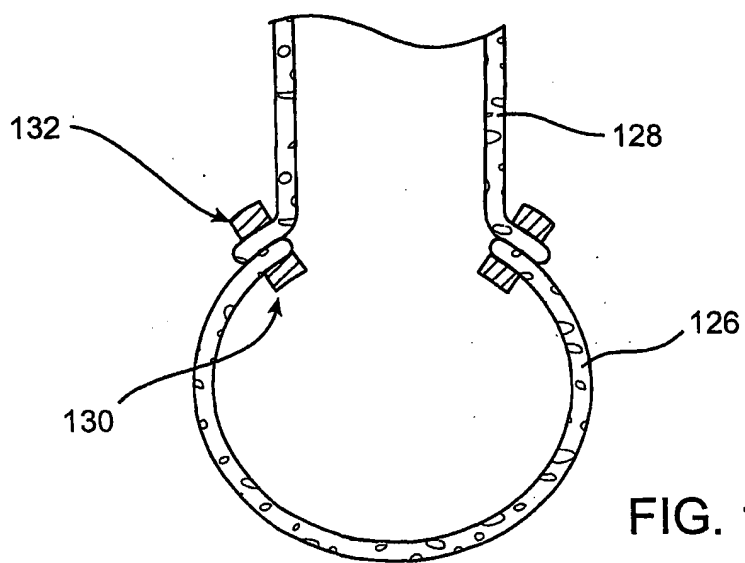
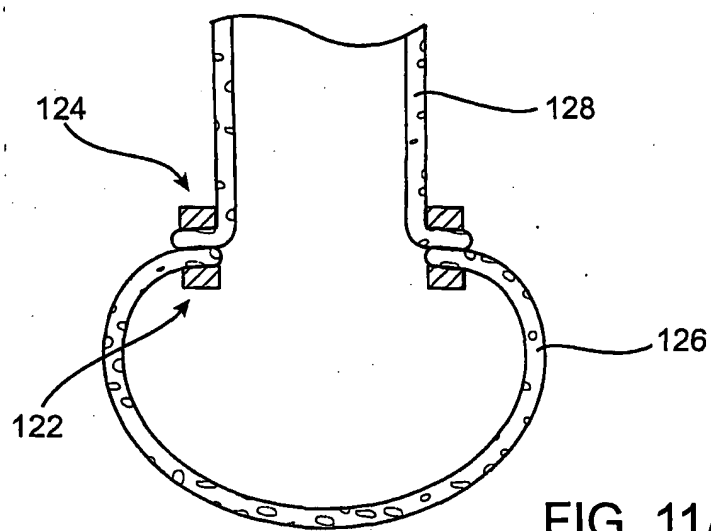
FIG. 10B



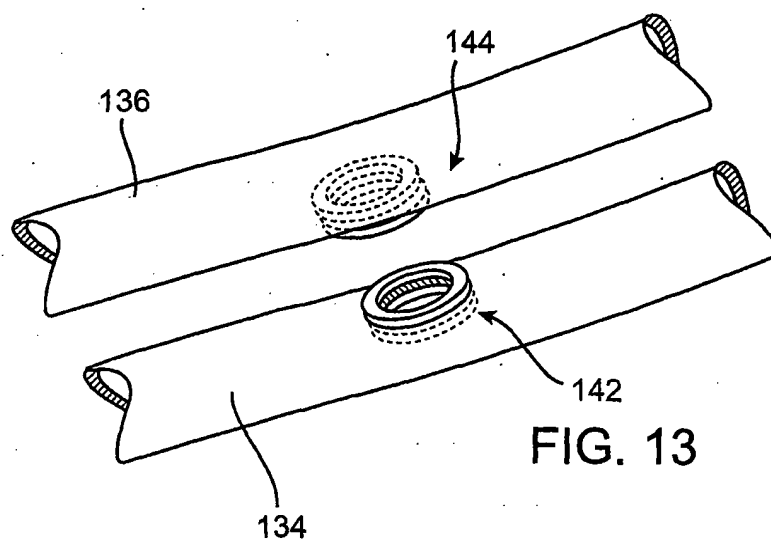
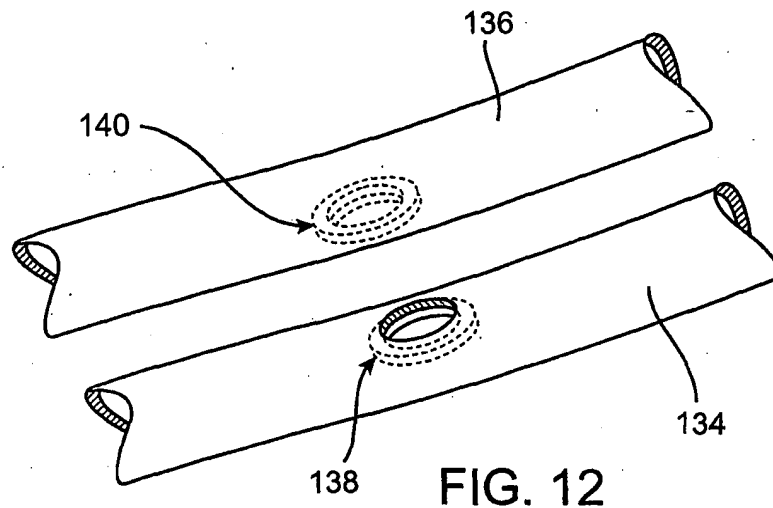
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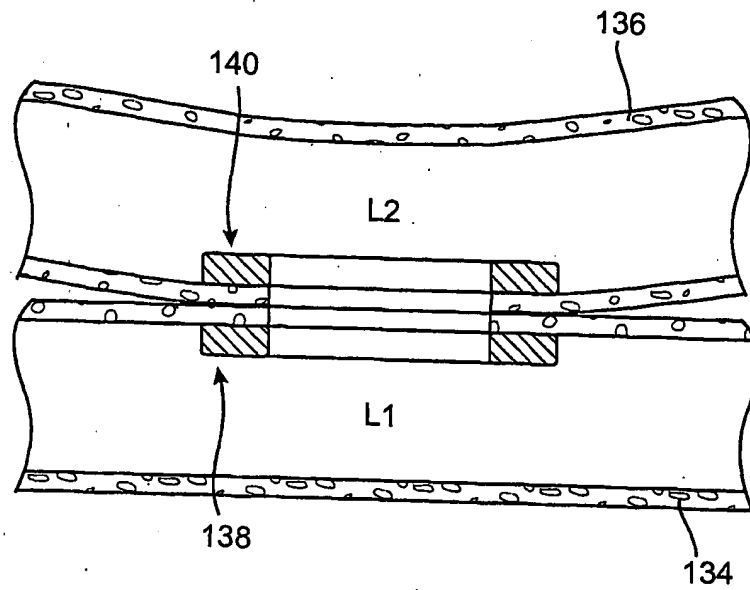


FIG. 14A

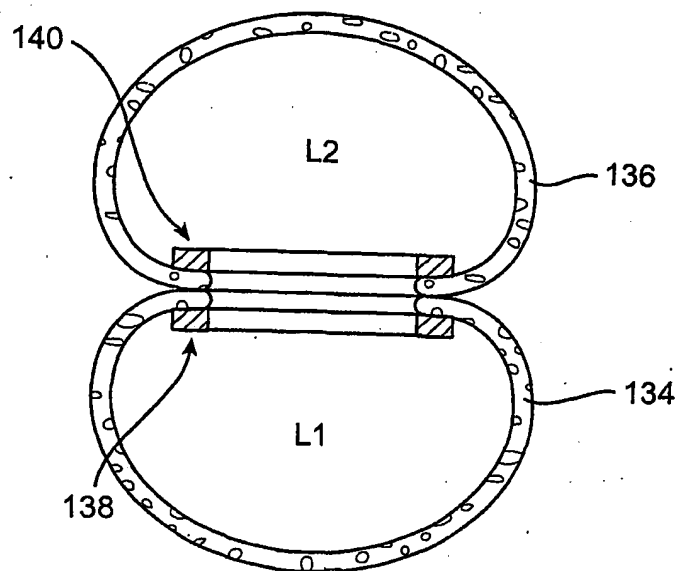
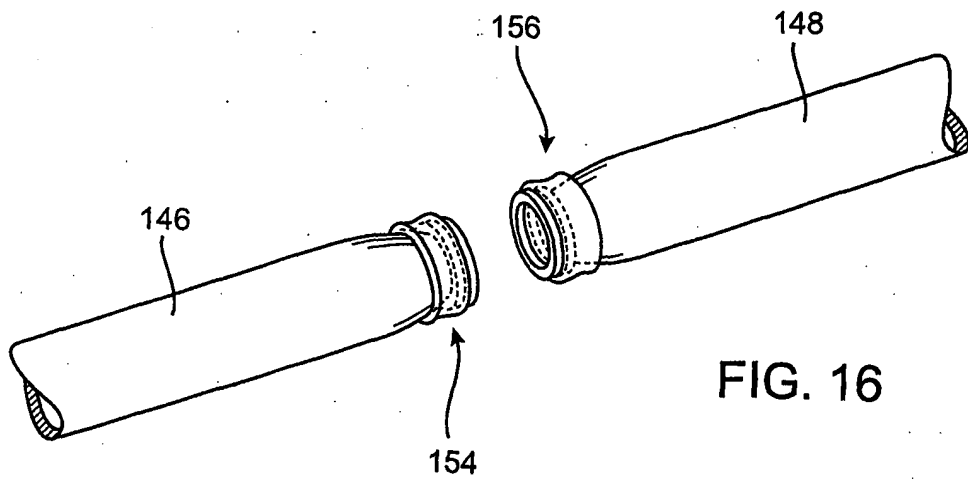
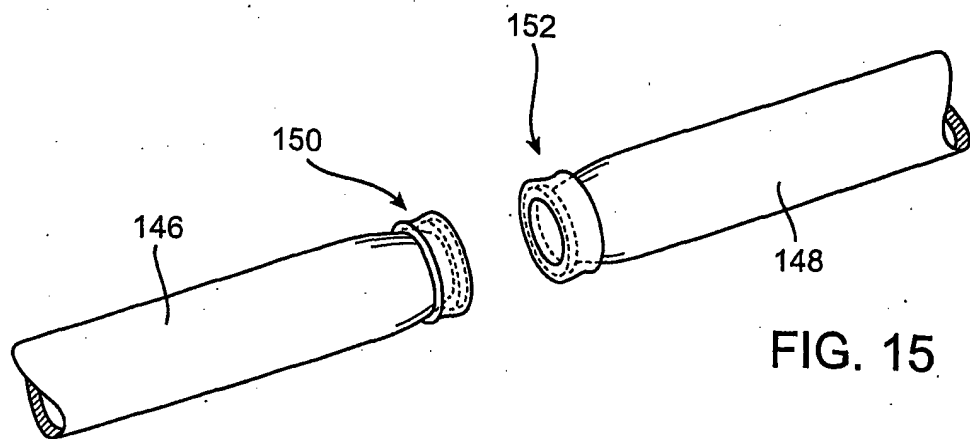


FIG. 14B

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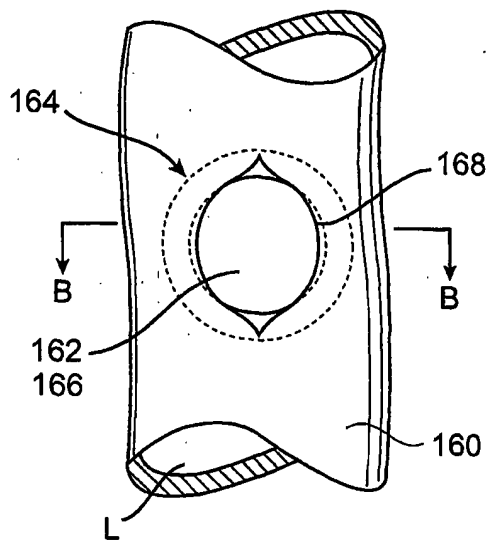


FIG. 17A

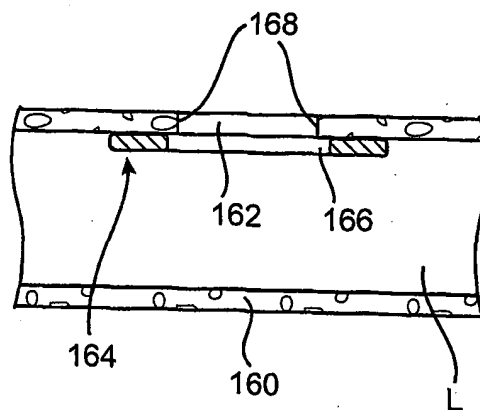


FIG. 17B

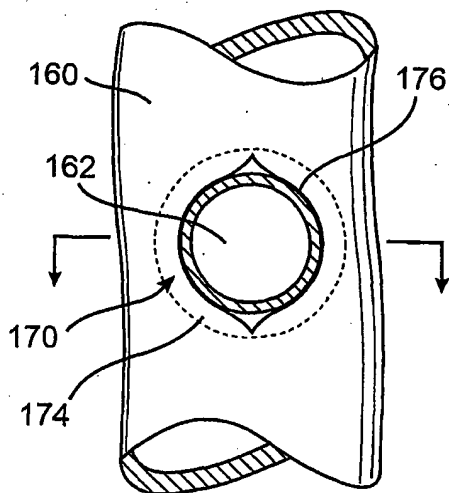


FIG. 18A

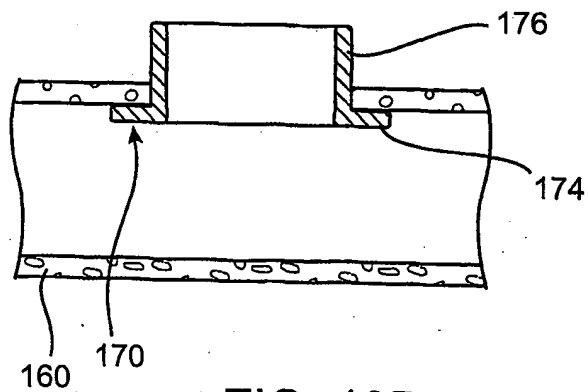
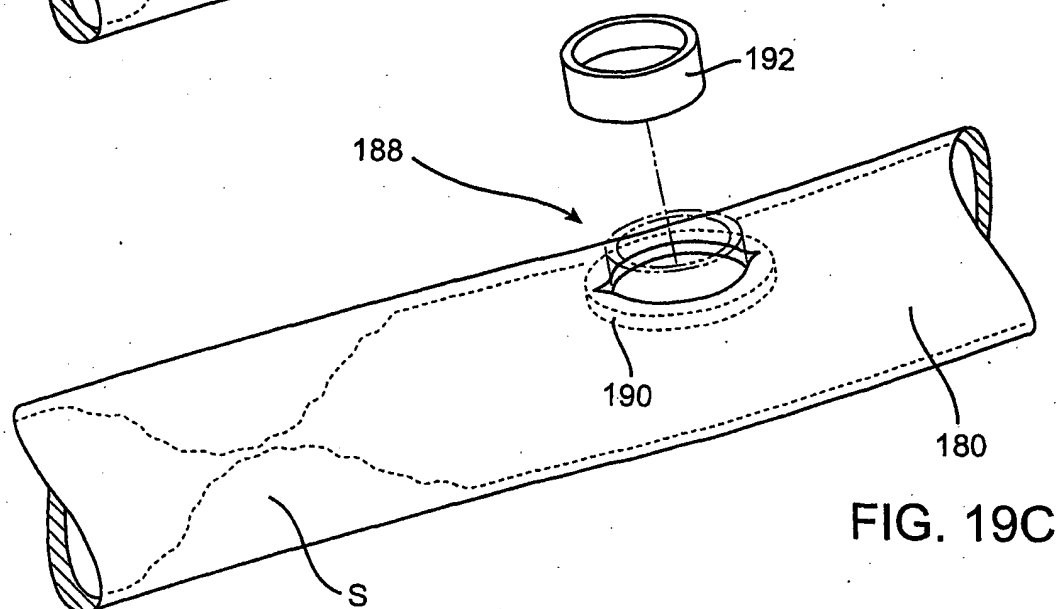
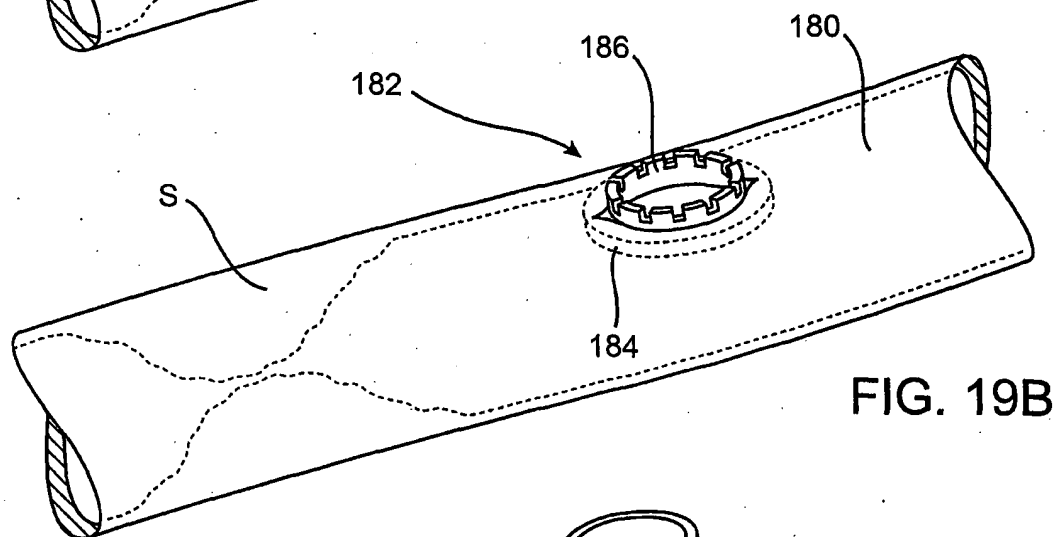
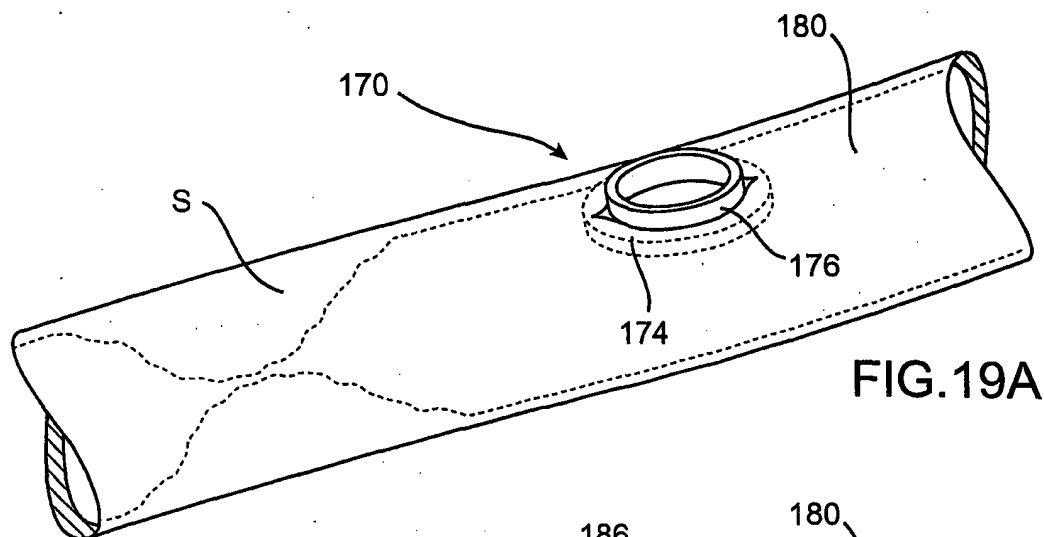
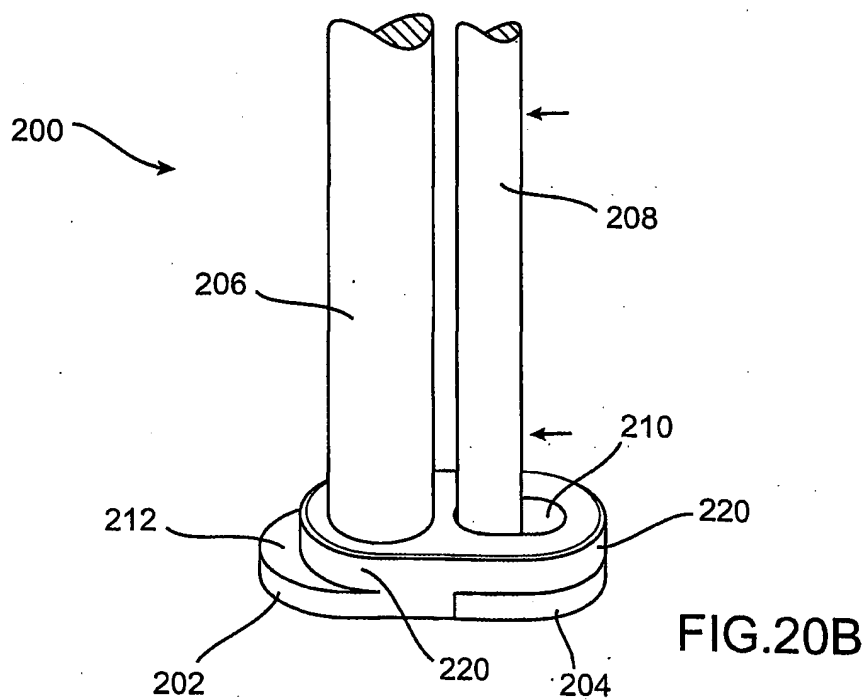
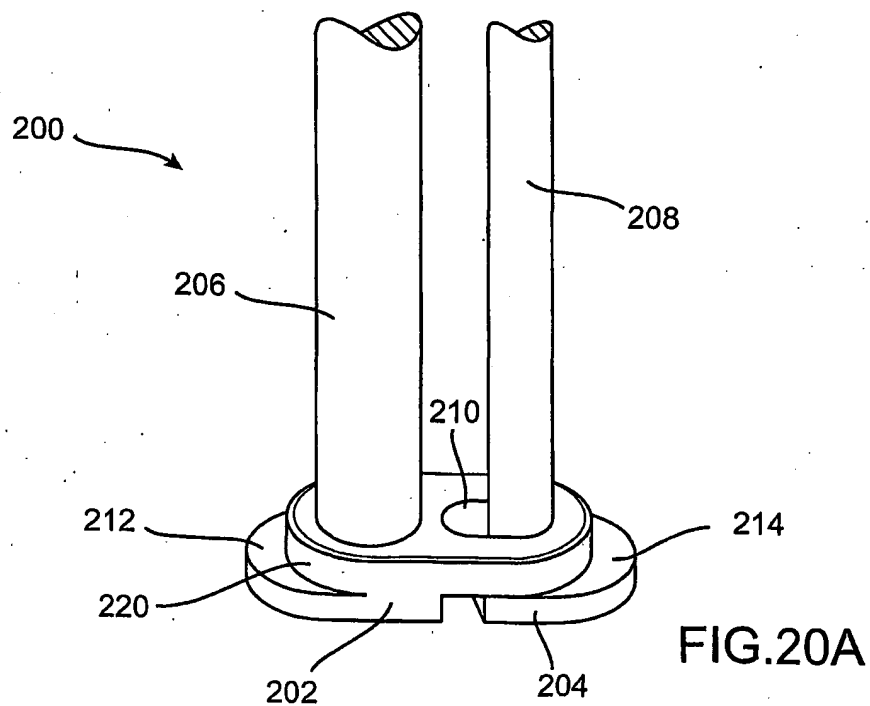


FIG. 18B

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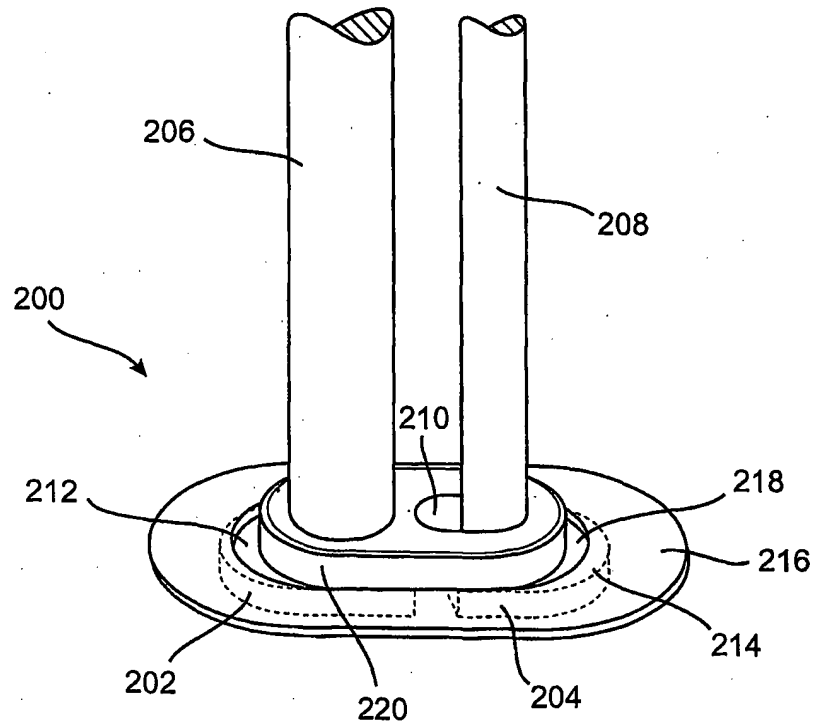


FIG. 21A

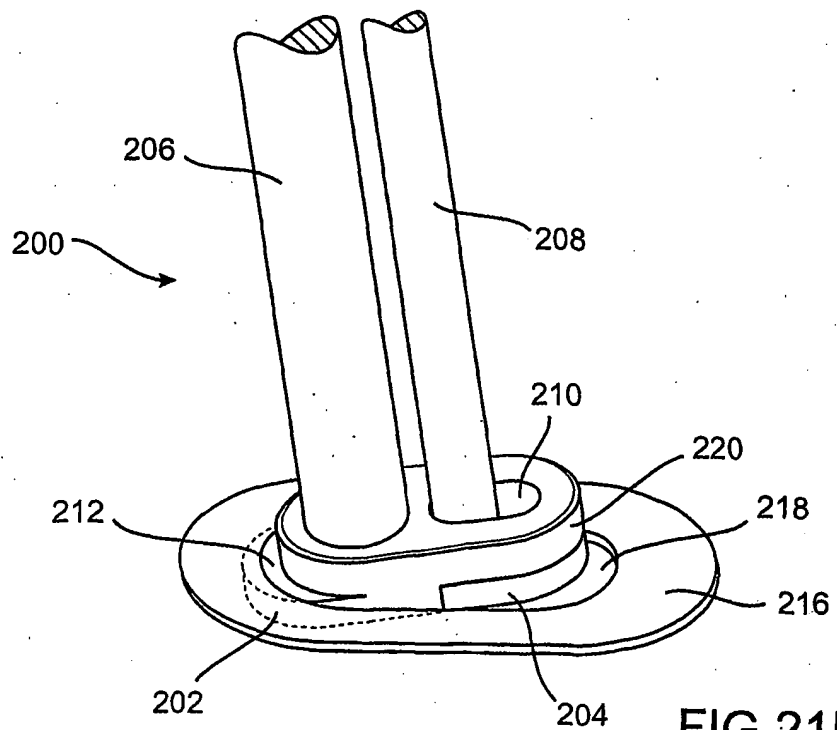


FIG. 21B

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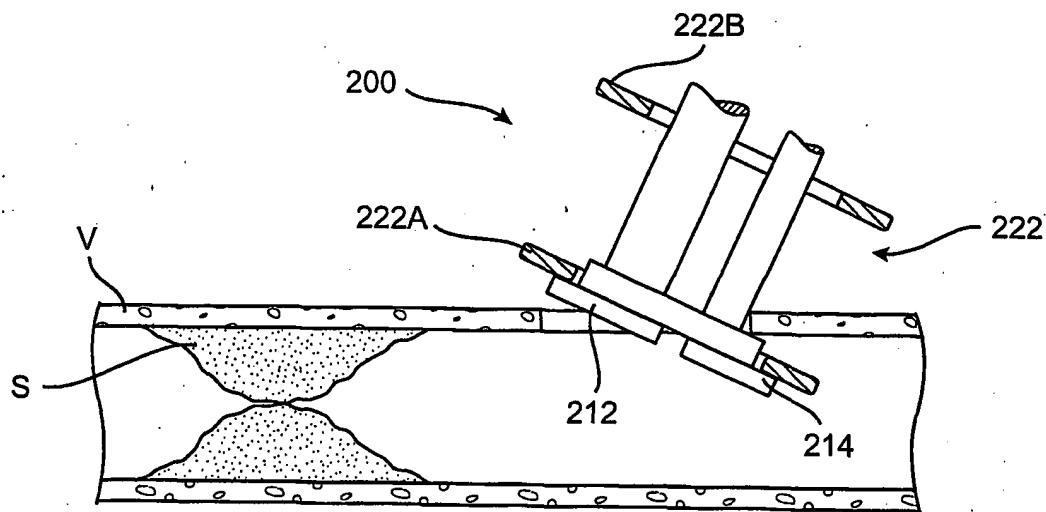


FIG. 22A

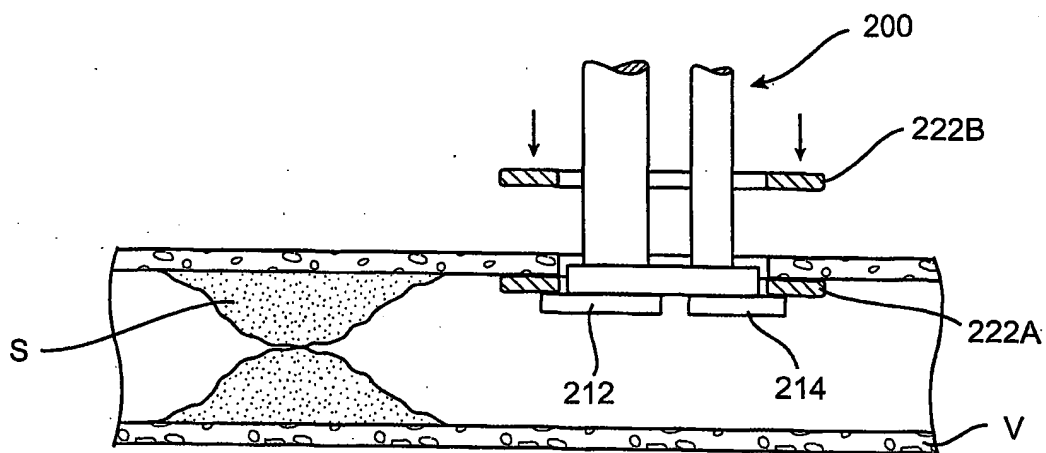


FIG. 22B

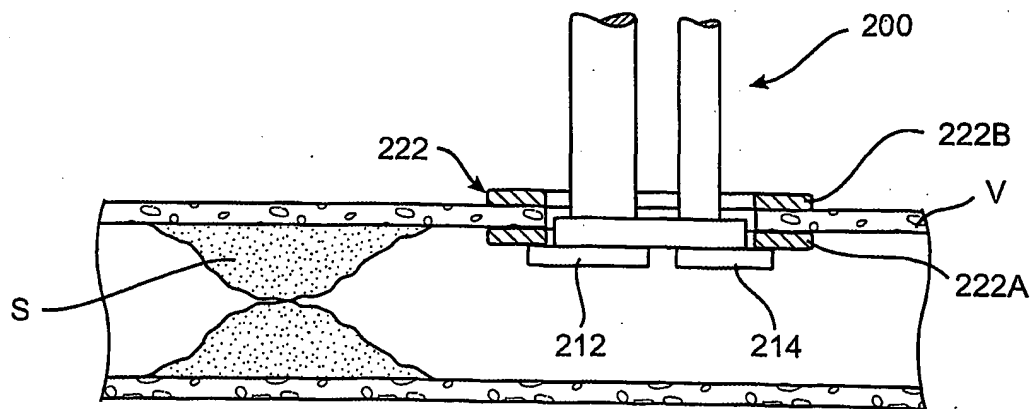
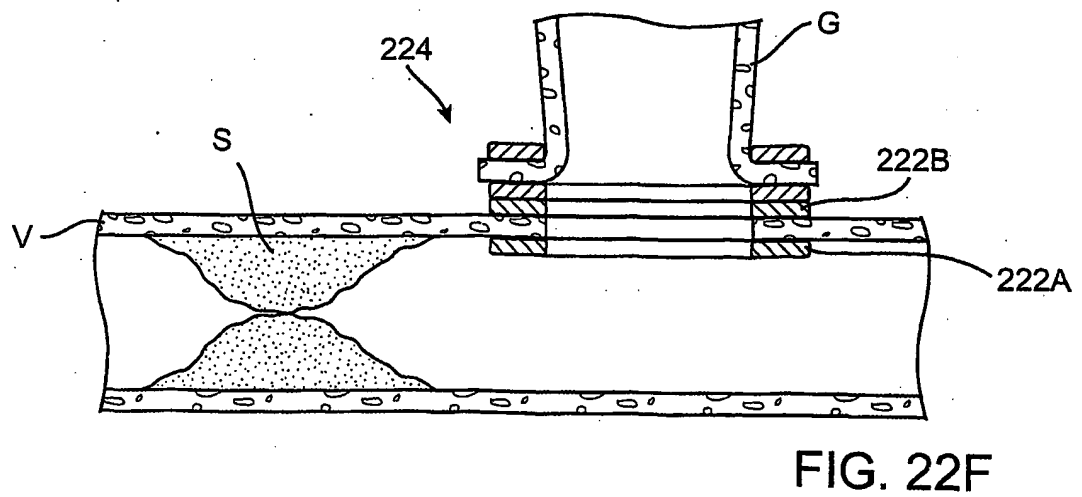
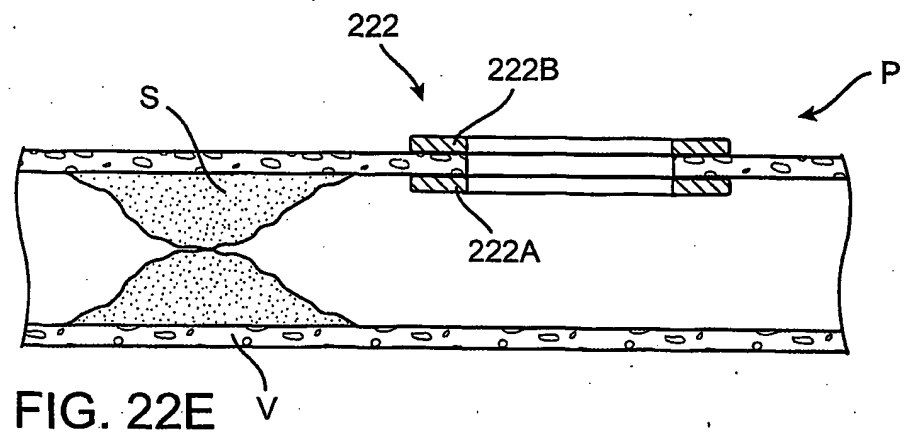
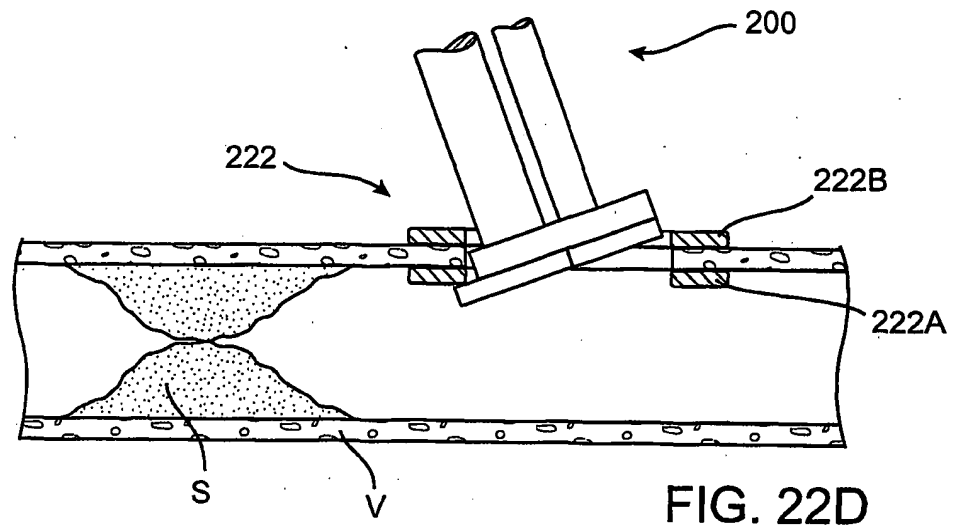
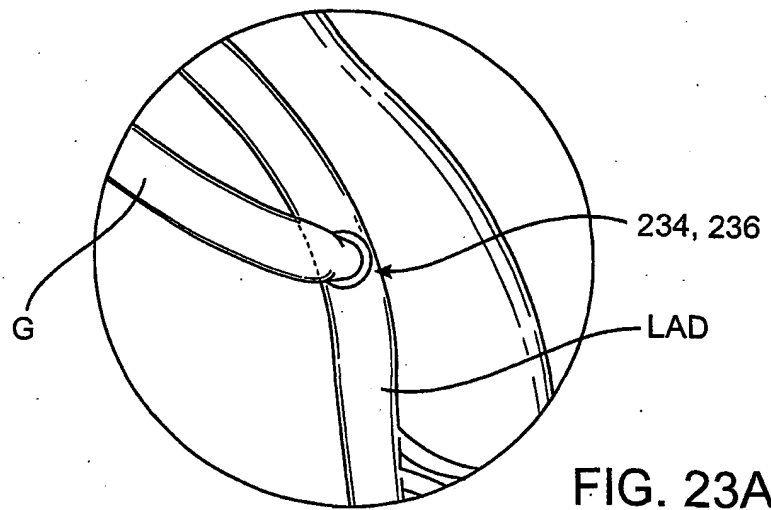
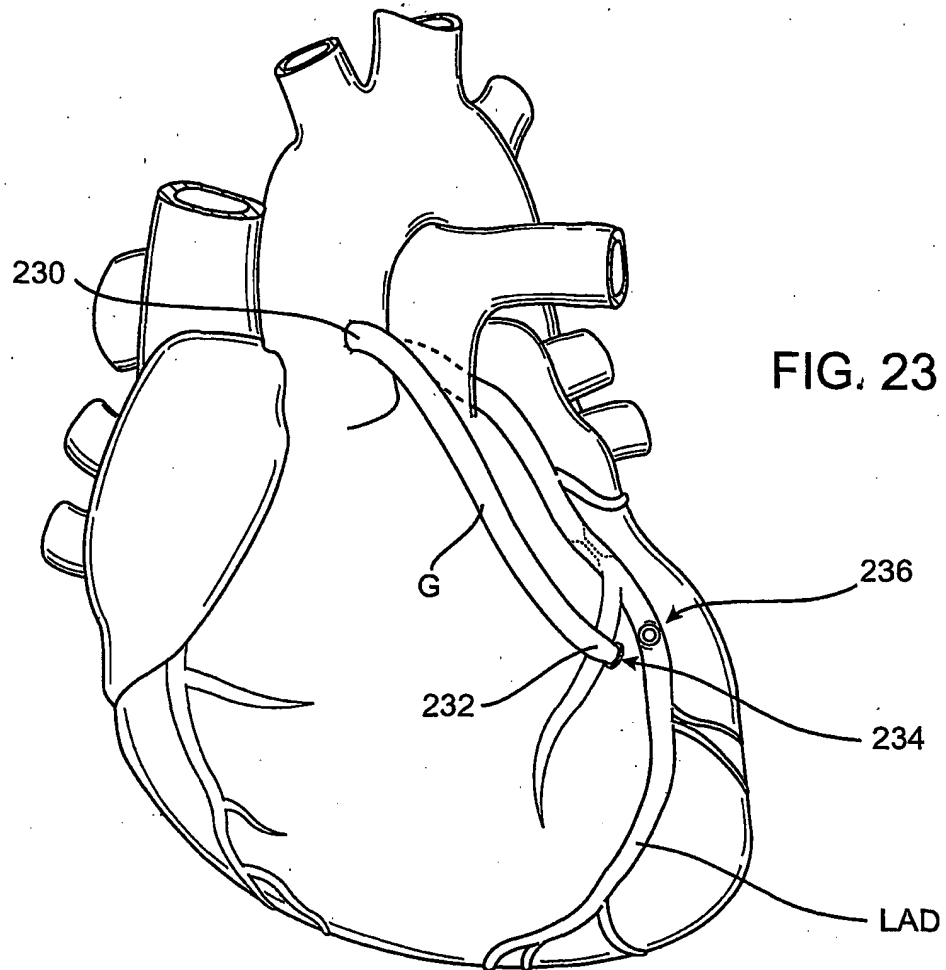


FIG. 22C

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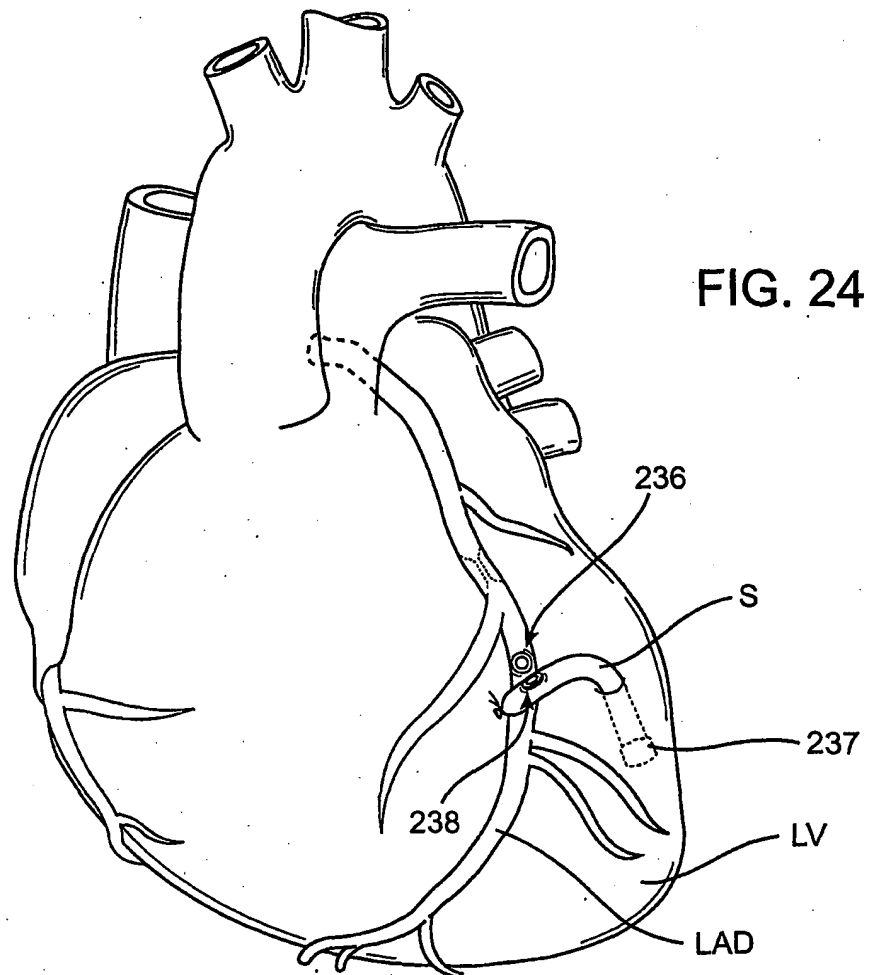


FIG. 24

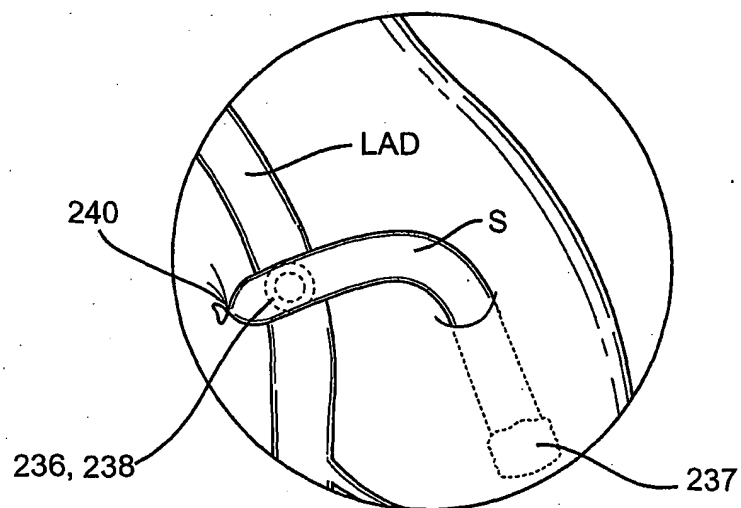


FIG. 24A

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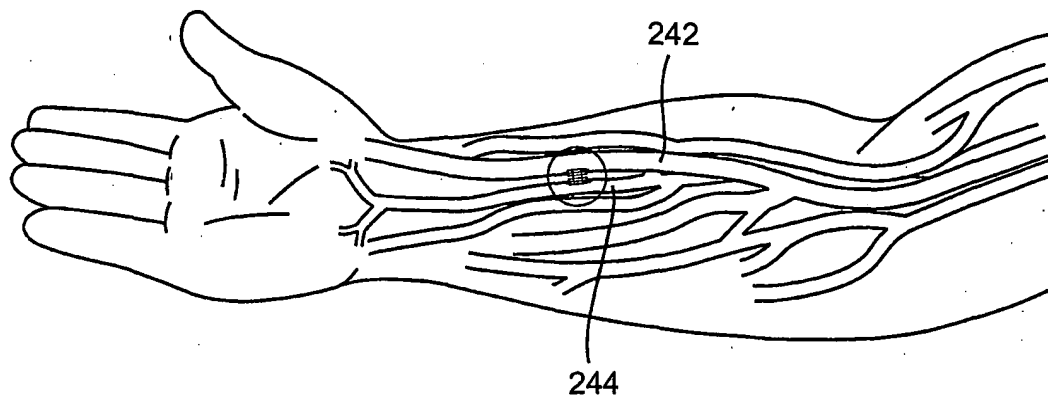


FIG. 25

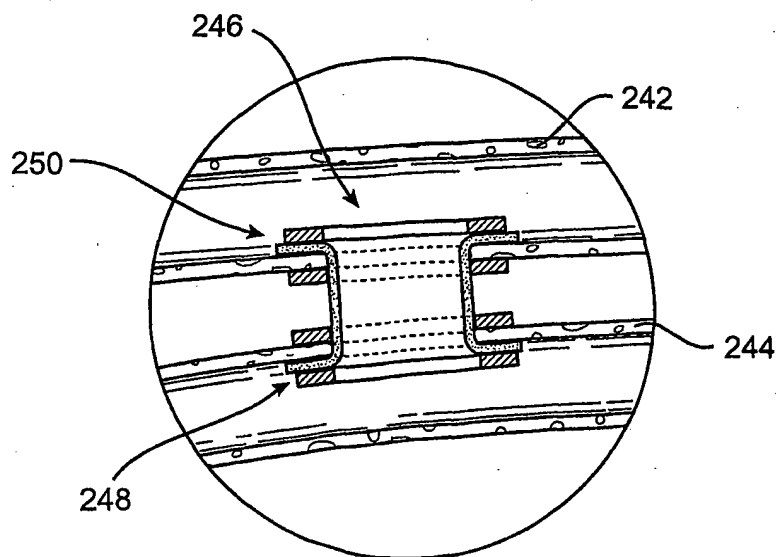


FIG. 25A

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/13803

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER		
IPC(7) :A61B 17/08 US CL :606/153 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC		
B. FIELDS SEARCHED		
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) U.S. : 606/151, 153, 154, 155, 156, 215, 216; 128/898		
Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched		
Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) EAST BRS search terms: anastomosis, magnet, magnetic		
C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT		
Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X — Y	SU 1179978 A (DOLGUSHIN et al.) 23 September 1985, see English abstract and figures 1 and 2.	1,8,9, 12-17,47, 49-52,55, 58-62,64, 66-69 — 10,11,48, 58,59
X — Y	US 5,690,656 A (COPE et al.) 25 November 1997, see entire document.	47,49-56, 61,62, 65-69 — 10,11
X	SU 736966 A (RUDAKOV et al.) 30 May 1980, see English abstract and the figure.	47,49-52, 55,61,62,
<input type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. <input type="checkbox"/> See patent family annex.		
* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		
Date of the actual completion of the international search 23 JUNE 2001		Date of mailing of the international search report 16 JUL 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230		Authorized officer JULIAN W. WOO <i>Diane Smith f</i> Telephone No. (703) 308-0421